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The Victoria History of the
Counties of England

EDITED BY L. F. SALZMAN, M.A., F.S.A.

A HISTORY OF
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

VOLUME IV

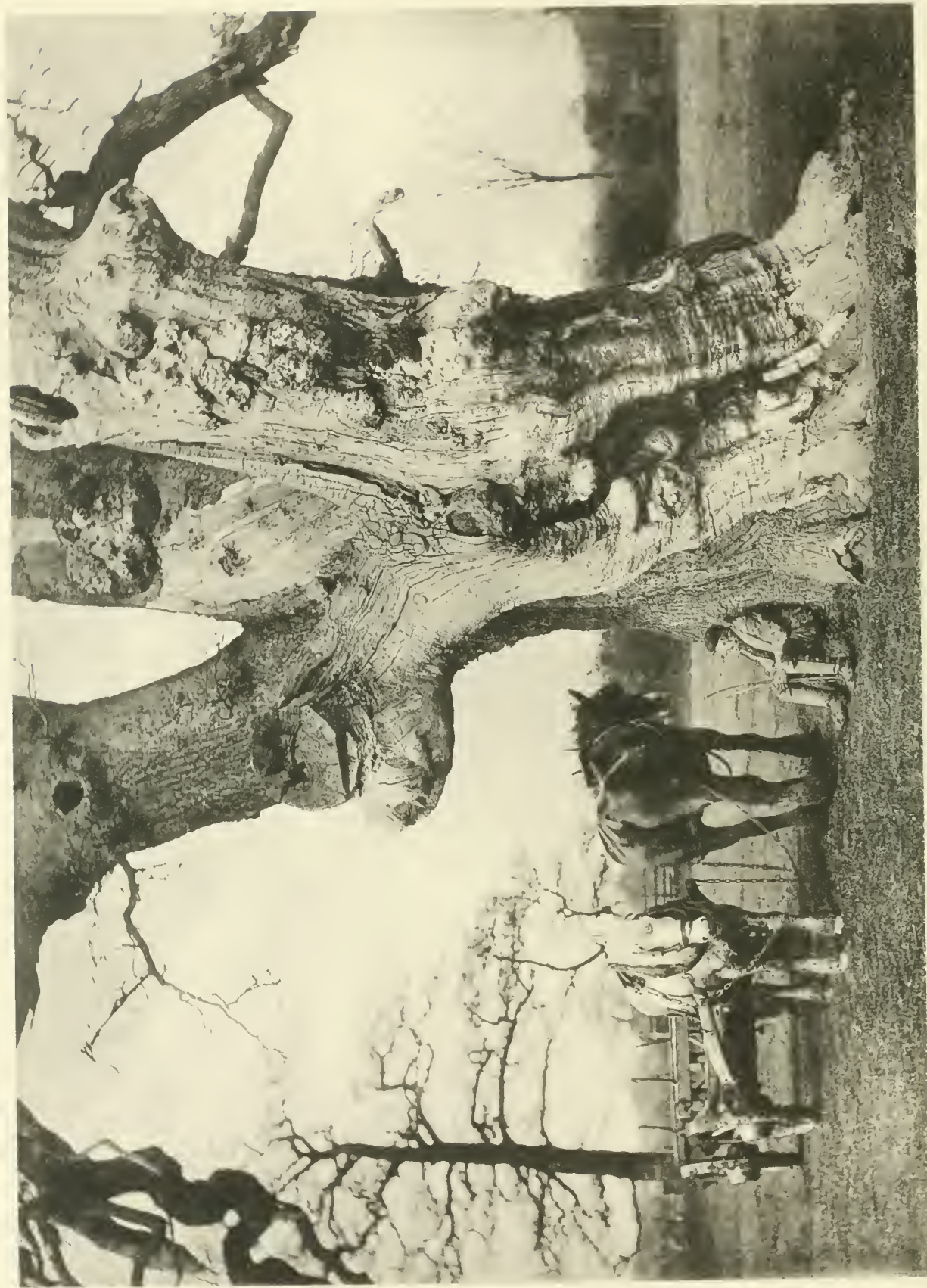
THE
VICTORIA HISTORY
OF THE COUNTIES
OF ENGLAND
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE



PUBLISHED FOR
THE UNIVERSITY OF LONDON
INSTITUTE OF HISTORICAL RESEARCH
BY THE
OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS
AMEN HOUSE, LONDON, E.C.

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INSCRIBED
TO THE MEMORY OF
HER LATE MAJESTY
QUEEN VICTORIA
WHO GRACIOUSLY GAVE
THE TITLE TO AND
ACCEPTED THE
DEDICATION OF
THIS HISTORY



COWPER'S OAK IN YARDLEY CHASE
(from a photograph by the late Harry Mansfield, Esq.)

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VOLUME FOUR

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EDITORIAL NOTE

THE third volume of the *Victoria History of the County of Northampton* was published in 1930 under the editorship of the late Dr. William Page, and materials for the accounts of the four hundreds of Higham Ferrers, Spelhoe, Hamfordshoe, and Orlingbury had then been collected. The manorial descents of these hundreds had actually been compiled by members of Dr. Page's staff as far back as 1908; these have been completely revised, and largely rewritten, by the Editor, with assistance from local authorities.

Special thanks are due to Miss Joan Wake, who again put her own enthusiasm and local knowledge and the documentary resources of the Northamptonshire Record Society at our disposal. To Mrs. Harry Manfield we are indebted for the frontispiece to this volume; to the Marquess of Northampton for the loan of the plan of Castle Ashby, and also for reading proofs; and to Mr. L. G. H. Lee, F.S.A., for the loan of two blocks of Raunds Church. Mr. H. J. Smith, whose contribution of photographs to the third volume was inadvertently left unacknowledged, has again provided photographs; and Messrs. John Murray have kindly permitted us to reproduce an illustration from Baldwin Brown's *Arts in Early England*. Professor A. Hamilton Thompson gave considerable help with the architectural descriptions, as did the late Major C. A. Markham, F.S.A., who kindly allowed full use to be made of his book on the *Church Plate of Northamptonshire*. Mr. Reginald W. Brown, Librarian of the Borough of Northampton, was also most helpful.

Among others who gave valuable assistance, special mention may be made of the late Mr. W. Talbot Brown, F.S.A., Mr. C. Vere Davidge, Mr. Gyles Isham, the Rev. H. Isham Longden, F.S.A., and Mr. H. Savory. Thanks are also due to the proprietors of Kelly's *Directories* for permission to quote from their publications; and to the following for reading proofs and making corrections and suggestions regarding them: the Rev. H. P. Brown, Mr. A. C. Chibnall, the Rev. G. H. Haines, the Rev. J. Hotine, the Rev. K. Kershaw, the Rev. C. Grant King, the Rev. G. H. Mallett, the Rev. W. F. Need, the Rev. A. C. Nugee, the Rev. E. Y. Orlebar, Miss G. E. H. Roberts, the Rev. H. J. Smale, Col. H. G. Sotheby, Major A. H. Thurnburn, Sir Hereward Wake, bart., and the Rev. J. White.

Many others, particularly among the parochial clergy, have given much appreciated help in various ways.

THE HUNDRED OF HIGHAM FERRERS

CONTAINING THE PARISHES OF

BOZEAT	HIGHAM PARK	RUSHDEN
CHELVESTON-CUM-CALDECOTT	IRCHESTER	STANWICK
EASTON MAUDIT	NEWTON BROMSWOLD	STRIXTON
HARGRAVE	RAUNDS	WOLLASTON
HIGHAM FERRERS BOROUGH*	RINGSTEAD	

IN the Geld Roll of about 1076 and in the following century the Hundred of Higham Ferrers is given as one and a half hundreds.¹ In 1086 it was held by William Peverel, who also held the manor of Higham Ferrers,² and the hundred and manor (q.v.) have subsequently remained in the same hands.

In the Domesday Survey the following lands belonged to it: Higham Ferrers, Rushden, Chelveston, Caldecott, Knuston, Irchester, Easton Maudit, Farndish, Poddington, Raunds,³ Bozeat, and Hargrave,⁴ as well as 10½ hides in Finedon⁵ and certain unnamed lands, which by comparison with the 12th-century survey of Northamptonshire can be identified with Strixton.⁶ Newton Bromswold which belonged to William Peverel in 1086 is returned in Hamfordshoe Hundred⁷ but before the Northamptonshire Survey of the next century it was certainly in Higham Hundred.⁸ Farndish and parts of Poddington lie in Bedfordshire, but in the early 18th century the lands of the Hundred of Higham Ferrers were much interlaced with those of the neighbouring county.⁹ In 1602 both the court leet and the three-weeks court were indiscriminately described in estreat rolls as the hundred court,¹⁰ but by 1674 they were distinguished as the court leet or view of frankpledge and the court baron of the hundred.¹¹ The courts were generally held at Higham



HIGHAM FERRERS

MAP OF THE HUNDRED

¹ *V.C.H. Northants.* i, 297, 276b.

³ *Ibid.* 336b, 337a.

⁶ *Ibid.* i, 342a, 376b.

⁹ Bridges, *Hist. of Northants.* ii, 157.

¹⁰ Duchy of Lanc. Ct. R. (P.R.O.), bdle. 105, no. 1502.

² *Ibid.* 336b.

⁴ *Ibid.* 338b.

⁷ *Ibid.* 311a.

⁵ *Ibid.* 308a.

⁸ *Ibid.* 376b.

¹¹ *Ibid.* nos. 1506, 1516.

* For Higham Ferrers Borough and Higham Park see *V.C.H. Northants.* iii, 263-80.

A HISTORY OF NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

Ferrers,¹ but in October 1694 there is an instance of their being held at Raunds.² In Queen Elizabeth's reign the freeholders who owed suit to the three-weeks court paid a yearly fine at one of the half-yearly leets from their lands in the hundred, in lieu of doing suit.³ In 1651 these fines amounted to 12*s.* a year, the profits of the two courts being £4.⁴ Throughout the 17th century cases of debt and trespass were heard in the hundred court, as well as occasional matters relating to tolls and bridge-repairs.⁵

¹ Duchy of Lanc. Ct. R. (P.R.O.), nos. 1502, 1506, 1514, 1516, 1518.

² Ibid. no. 1518.

³ Ibid. nos. 1502, 1506.

⁴ Rentals and Surv. (P.R.O.), Parl. Surv. Northants. 5.

⁵ Duchy of Lanc. Ct. R. (P.R.O.), bdle. 105.

HIGHAM FERRERS HUNDRED

BOZEAT

Bosiete (xi cent.); Boshate, Bosezate, Bosyate, Bosegate (xiii cent.); Bosizatt (xvi-xvii cent.).

Bozeat is on the borders of Bedfordshire and Buckinghamshire, a stone at Shirewood about 2 miles south-east of the village marking the boundary between the three counties. The London road from Wellesborough to Olney runs through the parish from north to south. The village lies mainly along two roads branching east from the London road, the lower one being called the High Street.

St. Mary's Church, with the vicarage to the west of it, lies at the eastern side of the village. To the south of it, across the road, are Manor Farm and Church Farm, the Independent Methodist chapel built in 1892, and the Baptist chapel built in 1844. There is a cemetery of about an acre formed in 1903, with a mortuary chapel. A public elementary school was built in 1873, and enlarged in 1892. A working men's club founded in 1894 has a club house, built in 1897; and an obelisk of Weldon stone was erected in 1920 to the memory of 39 men of the parish who fell in the Great War. There are disused brickworks north-west of the village; and about a quarter of a mile to the south of the village, down the London road, are Bozeat mill and windmill, the last surviving post mill in the county.

The parish lies mostly at a height of about 300 ft., and while the surface is level in some districts, in the north it is hilly. It has an area of 2,605 acres. The soil is a stiff loam; the subsoil limestone. The chief crops grown are cereals. Shoemaking employs a considerable number of hands. Some Bozeat tradesmen's tokens of the 17th century are known.¹ The population in 1931 was 1,157.

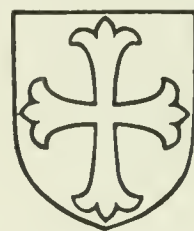
In Bozeat, 2 hides less 1 virgate were **MANORS** the property of Waltheof Earl of Huntingdon before the Conquest, and were held by his wife the Countess Judith in the Domesday Survey.² The overlordship of this manor, later known as the manor of **LATIMERS**, descended with the earldom and honor of Huntingdon as Yardley Hastings (q.v.).

Under Earl Waltheof this property was held by Stric. In 1086 Lanzelin was the Countess Judith's tenant, the pre-Conquest value of 40s. remaining unaltered. The family of de Moreville were undertenants of this fee in the 12th century, and an inquiry held in the reign of King John³ showed that Richard de Moreville (Constable of the King of Scotland and father of Helen de Moreville) had been seised of the land of Whissendine (Rutland) and Bozeat, and later had been disseised on account of the war between Henry II and King William of Scotland. To Earl David's counterclaim that King Henry had granted the land to his brother King William, who had then granted it to himself to hold in demesne, Helen de Moreville objected that it was only the service rendered for the land

which had been granted to him by the King of Scotland. Alan de Galway, the son of Helen de Moreville, married Margaret, the daughter of Earl David, and received a grant of 2 fees in Whissendine and Bozeat to hold of him by homage and service.⁴ Alan de Galway and his mother appear in 1213 as owing 600 marks and 6 palfreys for the foregoing inquiry.⁵ A fee in Bozeat appears in 1242 as held of Henry de Hastings by John Hansard.⁶ The Hansards were still in possession of this fee in 1275,⁷ when it was ordered that the manor of Bozeat, held in chief by Gilbert Hansard, should be taken into the king's hands, as he had alienated it without licence. Probably he had sold it to one of the Mowbrays, as in 1312 a fee held by John Mowbray in Bozeat was included among the fees held



HANSARD. Sable three molets argent.



LATIMER. Gules a cross paty or.

at his death by John de Hastings.⁸ The declaration in 1318 that there never were any lands in Bozeat of ancient demesne⁹ may indicate that the Hastings overlordship had been called in question. William Latimer at his death in 1336 held the manor of Bozeat of John de Mowbray by service of one knight's fee.¹⁰ At the death of Laurence de Hastings, Earl of Pembroke, in 1348, one fee was held of him by John de Mowbray in Bozeat, and another by William Latimer¹¹ (son of the last-named William). After this date the Mowbray mesne lordship is not again recorded. The other fee came to the Latimers through the Twengs and the Bruces, and was also for a time returned as held in chief by them. Robert de Tweng appears to have claimed view of frankpledge in Bozeat in 1275.¹² On 15 October 1285 the custody of the manor of Bozeat, during minority of the heir of Robert de Tweng, was granted to Roger de Fricurt, king's yeoman,¹³ and in February 1294 the manor of Bozeat was in the king's hands by reason of the minority of Lucy daughter and heir of Robert de Tweng, tenant in chief.¹⁴ Lucy had inherited property in the north as grand-daughter and heir of Marmaduke de Tweng and of Lucy sister and co-heir of Peter de Bruce.¹⁵ In 1311 Lucy de Tweng and William Latimer her husband made a settlement of the manors of Danby, co. York, and of Bozeat, both of the inheritance of Lucy,¹⁶ to William Latimer to hold for life, with remainder to William their son.¹⁷ In 1316 Bozeat was assessed with Easton [Maudit] and with half Strixton,

¹ N. & Q. Northants. 1886-7, p. 202.

² V.C.H. Northants. i, 353a.

³ Abbrev. Plac. (Rec. Com.), 79.

⁴ Ibid. 80.

⁵ Pipe R. 13 John, m. 13.

⁶ Bk. of Fees, 933.

⁷ Cal. Fine R. 1272-1307, p. 48.

⁸ Chan. Inq. p.m. 6 Edw. II, no. 56.

⁹ Cal. Inq. Misc. ii (1307-49), p. 92.

¹⁰ Cal. Inq. p.m., vii, no. 689, p. 477.

¹¹ Ibid. ix, no. 118, pp. 122-3; Cal. Close, 1346-9, p. 582.

¹² Hund. R. (Rec. Com.), ii, 10. The entry is confused: *Robts. Tweyge in Bozpage et Wills. heres de eadem*, but obviously Robert Tweng and possibly a son whose death left this fee to Robert's daughter Lucy are alluded to.

¹³ Cal. Pat. 1281-92, p. 196.

¹⁴ Cal. Close, 1288-96, p. 344.

¹⁵ Kirkby's Inq. (Surttees Soc.), 307.

¹⁶ Feet of F. Div. Co. III. 4 Edw. II, case 285, file 28, no. 41. Lucy was divorced in 1315; Dugdale, Bar. ii, 37; Archbp. Greenfield's Reg. (Surttees Soc.), i, 126.

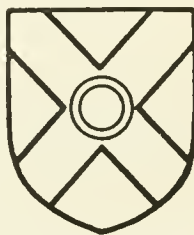
¹⁷ Cal. Chart. R. iii, 159; Chart R. 4 Edw. II, m. 12, no. 46.

A HISTORY OF NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

William Latimer appearing among the tenants then enumerated.¹

On 3 November 1328 a grant of free warren was made by Edward III to William Latimer in the manors of Screddington (co. Lincoln) and of Bozeat.² He claimed view of frankpledge in 1329 as having been held with the manor by Lucy de Bruce, who enfeoffed of the manor his father William Latimer.³

After the death of William Latimer in 1335 the manor was held in dower by his widow Elizabeth until her death on 11 April 1384.⁴ Her son Sir William Latimer predeceased her, dying on 28 May 1381, and his heir was his daughter Elizabeth, wife of John de Neville Lord of Raby.⁵ The manor was then assigned in dower to his widow, also named Elizabeth,⁶ who at her death in 1389 was returned as holding it of the Earl of Pembroke by service of half a knight's fee, of the inheritance of her daughter Elizabeth.⁷ Lady Elizabeth Neville married as her second husband Sir Robert de Willoughby of Eresby, and died seised of the manor of Bozeat in 1395.⁸ Lady Elizabeth's heir by her first husband was their son John Neville, but after her death the manor was held by her second husband Sir Robert de Willoughby until he died on 9 August 1396.⁹ It was then returned as held of the honor of Huntingdon, but by what service was not known.¹⁰ In 1428 Bozeat was assessed for feudal aids as 1 fee held by Lord Latimer of the honor of Huntingdon.¹¹ John de Neville, Lord Latimer, died s.p. in 1430-1, having entailed the manor on Ralf Earl of Westmoreland, his step-brother, i.e. the son of his father John Lord Neville by his first wife Maud daughter of Lord Percy.¹² By Earl Ralf it was bestowed on his third son, Sir George Neville, who with his wife Elizabeth, daughter of Richard Beauchamp Earl of Warwick, made settlement of it in 1444.¹³ He, as Sir George Neville Lord



NEVILLE, Lord Latimer.
*Gules a saltire argent
with a ring sable for
difference.*

Latimer, died seised of it jointly with his wife Elizabeth on 30 December 1469, his heir being his grandson Richard Neville, son of his son Henry, who had been slain that year. In the inquisition taken on the following 10 May¹⁴ he was said to have held the manor of the heirs of Thomas d'Evreux by half a knight's fee, but this was evidently a confusion with the manor of Marshes (q.v.). Elizabeth, his widow, died on 27 October 1480, when it was returned that she had granted the stewardship of the manor to Richard Maryette.¹⁵ Her grandson Sir Richard Neville of Latimer succeeded her. On 3 April 1500 he and his wife Anne made a settlement of this and other manors.¹⁶ Sir Richard was succeeded by his son John Lord Latimer, whose son John Lord Latimer next succeeded, and died at Snape in Yorkshire on 22 April 1577 leaving four daughters as his co-heirs: Catherine, wife of Henry

Earl of Northumberland; Dorothy, wife of Sir Thomas Cecil; Lucy, wife of William Cornwallis, esq.; and Elizabeth, wife of Sir John Danvers.¹⁷ These ladies, with their husbands, were dealing by fine with the manors of Bozeat, Church Brampton, Stowe, and Kislbury in 1579,¹⁸ and in 1580 the manors of Bozeat and Church Brampton were conveyed to Sir Thomas Cecil and his wife Dorothy by Richard Neville and his wife Barbara.¹⁹ Sir Thomas Cecil in right of his wife, the Lady Dorothy, subsequently took proceedings against Robert Johnson, steward of Lord Latimer and of Sir Thomas Cecil in these properties, to cause him to surrender court rolls and other evidences, and confess what he had cut or otherwise defaced in the same.²⁰

These proceedings may possibly be connected with preparations for a sale of the manor, as in 1598 a conveyance of the manors of Bozeat Latimers and of Bozeat Marshes (q.v.) was made by Sir Thomas Cecil and his wife Dorothy to John Wiseman and his wife Margery,²¹ and both these manors were after this date held by the Wisemans.

In 1603 John Wiseman settled the two manors of Bozeat and the rectory and advowson on his nephew Henry, younger son of his brother Richard, at the marriage of the said Henry with Mary Burley, daughter of Richard Burley of Elsenham, co. Essex, with contingent remainder to Richard, elder brother of the said Henry.²² John Wiseman died at Bozeat on 11 December 1615, his heir being his brother Richard's son Richard, and was succeeded in the Bozeat manors by his nephew Henry and the latter's wife Mary.²³ His own wife Frances survived him, and his nephew Richard died seised of the reversion of this property on 15 October 1616, leaving a wife Dorothy and a son and heir Mark.²⁴

In 1630 Henry Wiseman and his wife Mary were dealing²⁵ with the manors, rectory, and advowson, all settled on the said Mary for life, with remainder to their son John and his wife Elizabeth. John Wiseman of St. Leonard's in Shoreditch, London, died seised of the manors, rectory, and advowson on 7 April 1637, leaving a son and heir John aged 2,²⁶ who in 1656 conveyed them to John Gundry,²⁷ apparently a settlement on attaining his majority, as the manors remained in the Wiseman family, and when Bridges wrote were in the hands of Hester and Elizabeth Wiseman,²⁸ by inheritance from their brother John Wiseman, their mother being, according to Bridges, Catherine, daughter of Sir Edward Alston of East Barnet. In 1729 Hester and Elizabeth Wiseman presented to the church. In 1737 Elizabeth Wiseman, spinster, conveyed the manors of Bozeat Latimers and Marshes to Sara



SPENCER. *Quarterly argent and gules fretty or with a bend sable over all charged with three scallops argent.*

¹ *Feud. Aids*, iv, 30.
² Chart R. 2 Edw. III, m. 5, no. 22;
Cal. Chart. R. 1327-41, p. 94.
³ *Plac. de Quo Warr.* (Rec. Com.), 575.
⁴ Chan. Inq. p.m. 7 Ric. II, no. 52.
⁵ *Ibid.* 4 Ric. II, no. 34.
⁶ *Ibid.* 5 Ric. II, no. 35.
⁷ *Ibid.* 12 Ric. II, no. 34.
⁸ *Ibid.* 5 Hen. IV, no. 28.
⁹ *Ibid.* 20 Ric. II, no. 54.
¹⁰ *Ibid.* 5 Hen. IV, no. 28.
¹¹ *Feud. Aids*, iv, 45.

¹² Bridges, *Hist. of Northants.* ii, 159.
¹³ Feet of F. Div. Co. Hil. 22 Hen. VI.
¹⁴ Chan. Inq. p.m. 9 and 10 Edw. IV, no. 28.
¹⁵ *Ibid.* 20 Edw. IV, no. 73.
¹⁶ Pat. R. 15 Hen. VII, pt. ii; *Cal. Pat.* 1494-1509, p. 198; Feet of F. Div. Co. Trin. 15 Hen. VII.
¹⁷ Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), clxxviii, 57.
¹⁸ Feet of F. Div. Co. Trin. 21 Eliz.
¹⁹ *Ibid.* Hil. 22 Eliz.; *Recov. R. Mich.* 1580, ro. 119.

²⁰ Ct. of Req. xxxiii, 77.
²¹ Feet of F. Northants. East. 40 Eliz.
²² *Ibid.* East. 1 Jas. I.
²³ Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), cclclxxxiii, 110.
²⁴ *Ibid.* cclclviii, 104.
²⁵ Feet of F. Northants. Hil. 6 Chas. I; *Recov. R.* Hil. 6 Chas. I, ro. 41.
²⁶ Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), cclclxxxi, 4.
²⁷ Feet of F. Northants. East. 1656.
²⁸ *Hist. of Northants.* ii, 160.

Dowager Duchess of Marlborough,¹ and in 1739 the duchess presented to the church. From her it passed to the Spencers. The presentation to the church was made in 1753 by John Spencer, esq. (in whose hands the manors must have been at that date), and in 1795 and 1796 by Earl Spencer, who was returned in the Inclosure Act of 1798 as lord of the manor and owner of the impropriate rectory,² which remained in the possession of the Spencer family.

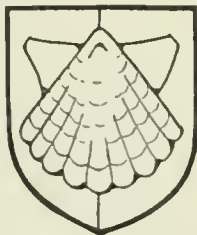
The manor of *MARSHEs* originated in land held at the date of the Domesday Survey by William Peverel, under whom Turstin [Mantel] was holding 1½ virgates in Bozeat of which the soc appertained to Higham.³ The 12th-century Northampton Survey records 3 small virgates in Bozeat⁴ as of the fee of William Peverel, and 1½ virgates which had been entered in the Domesday Survey as held in Easton by William Peverel,⁵ and were waste, probably made up the difference.

The overlordship descended with the fee of Ferrers to Edmund Earl of Lancaster, and in 1298 was included in the dower of his widow Blanche, as was also a thirtieth of a fee in Bozeat held by Robert the Clerk.⁶ This, of which there is no further trace, may have originated in a grant of land made in the time of King John by William de Wenneval to 'Roger my clerk'.⁷ The Bozeat half-fee descended to Thomas Earl of Lancaster⁸ and passed with his other property into the hands of the Crown.

Early in the 13th century Robert Bloet was in possession of this manor and granted a messuage, vineyard, garden, pigeon-house, and 5 virgates, with the services of the bondmen, to Ralph Hareng.⁹ All this Ralph, with the consent of his son Ralph, gave in 1222 to the nuns of Godstow, on condition of their paying £5 yearly to the abbey of St. James outside Northampton.¹⁰ But immediately afterwards he and the Abbess Felice rearranged the grant, so that the land went to the abbey of St. James, who should pay the £5 yearly to Godstow;¹¹ and about twenty years later Abbot Adam of St. James sold the vineyard back to Sir Ralph Hareng (probably the son) without abating the rent charge.¹² Geoffrey de Stokes had apparently acquired the rights of Robert Bloet before 1229, when he made over the 5 virgates to Ralph Hareng, at the same time paying 4 marks to the abbey of St. James for a fishpond on the property.¹³ In 1242 Thomas d'Evreux (de Ebraicis) was holding this half-fee;¹⁴ and in 1246 he was granted land which

he had assarted on the king's demesne and the custody of the wood of Hornwood, which he had held from the king's foresters in fee before they forfeited their bailiwick.¹⁵ This was acquired from him and granted to the abbey of St. James by John de Stokes,¹⁶ who in 1255 granted a lease to the abbey of St. James without Northampton for fifteen years of land in Bozeat and the custody of Hornwood,¹⁷ and in the same year conveyed to Abbot Adam a wood and half a knight's fee in Bozeat and Higham.¹⁸ In the assessment in 1316 of Bozeat with Easton [Maudit] and half Strixton for feudal aids, the abbot of St. James appears among tenants enumerated,¹⁹ and in the same year was engaged in a dispute with Richard Shortnot, a tenant of the manor of Bozeat, because the said Richard had unjustly claimed that this manor was of the ancient demesne of the Crown.²⁰ Richard, however, was discharged on that occasion owing to the abbot's having exacted from him and other tenants services other than those which it had been customary to render. An inquisition of 1318 stated that there were no lands in Bozeat of the ancient demesne of the Crown.²¹

Other land in Bozeat had been acquired by Adam, Abbot of St. James, to whom William de Dudinton in 1262 granted a messuage and 45 acres of land there.²² In 1292 John de Nowers quitclaimed to Abbot Ralph the wood of Stoneway in Bozeat, which had been granted to the abbey by John Maudit, lord of Easton (q.v.), for a rent of 2s. or one sparrow-hawk;²³ and in 1319 Walter Mauntell received licence to alienate to the abbey 2½ acres in Bozeat.²⁴ Additional land in Bozeat was acquired in 1391-2 by the abbey,²⁵ whose property there was valued at the Dissolution at £10 yearly.²⁶ The manor of Bozeat, with the rectory and advowson of the vicarage, and woods called Abbots Stonyway, Bozeat Stockings, and Abbots Hornwood, all part of the possessions of the late monastery, were in 1544 granted to Philip Meredith and others, mercers of London,²⁷ lands belonging to the monastery having been also granted in 1543 to Laurence French of Bozeat,²⁸ and in 1546 to George Ryche and Thomas Grantham of Lincoln's Inn.²⁹ On 1 February 1550 Sir John Royse and others received licence to alienate the manor, rectory, and advowson to John Marshe and his wife Alice,³⁰ who in 1556 sold them to John Dobbes.³¹ The wood called Abbots Stoneye or Stonyway and the rectory and advowson (q.v.) were on 20 June of the same year granted by John Dobbes to Baldwin Payne, merchant of the staple of Calais, and various tenements belonging to the manor and late monastery were sold by John Dobbes to several different owners.³² The manor John Marshe evidently retained, as in 1571 he settled it on his son and heir William Marshe,³³ from



ABBEY OF ST. JAMES, NORTHAMPTON. *Party sable and gules a scallop or.*

¹ Feet of F. Northants. Mich. 15 Geo. II.

² Priv. Stat. 38 Geo. III, c. 26.

³ *F.C.H. Northants.* i, 338b.

⁴ *Ibid.* 377b.

⁵ i.e. 1½ virgates in Easton belonging to the manor of Higham. They were not entered in the Northampton Survey, and parts of Easton were scattered among the fields of Bozeat. *Ibid.* 337a.

⁶ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* iii, 296. Robert the Clerk was holding in 1284: *Feud. Aids*, iv, 14.

⁷ Harl. Ch. 86 F. 46.

⁸ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* vii, 63.

⁹ *Reg. of Godstow Nunnery* (E.E.T.S.), 188.

¹⁰ *Ibid.*

¹¹ *Ibid.* 189-91.

¹² *Ibid.* 192.

¹³ Feet of F. Northants. 13 Hen. III, file 23, no. 237.

¹⁴ *Bk. of Fees*, 933. He held in right of his wife, as in 1245 service from the 5 virgates was due to Thomas d'Evreux and Margery his wife: *Assize R.* 614, m. 8.

¹⁵ *Cal. Chart. R.* 1226-57, p. 294. Cf. *Assize R.* 614, m. 19.

¹⁶ Feet of F. Div. Co. case 283, file 14, no. 88.

¹⁷ Harl. Chart. 56 F. 1.

¹⁸ Feet of F. Northants. 40 Hen. III, case 173, file 41, no. 699; *Hund. R.* (Rec. Com.), ii, 10; *Cal. Pat.* 1324-7, p. 192.

¹⁹ *Feud. Aids*, iv, 30.

²⁰ *Abbrev. Plac.* (Rec. Com.), 323.

²¹ *Cal. Inq. Misc.* ii, no. 371.

²² Feet of F. Northants. 46 Hen. III, case 174, file 47, no. 827.

²³ Harl. Chart. 53 C. 39.

²⁴ *Cal. Pat.* 1317-21, p. 399.

²⁵ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 15 Ric. II, pt. 2, no. 178.

²⁶ *Valor Eccl.* iv, 319.

²⁷ *Pat. R.* 36 Hen. VIII, pt. 3; *L. and P. Hen. VIII*, xix (2) g. 527 (30), p. 317.

²⁸ *Ibid.* xviii, p. 550.

²⁹ *L. and P. Hen. VIII*, xxi (1) g. 504 (1).

³⁰ *Pat. R.* 4 Edw. VI, pt. 3.

³¹ *Ibid.* 2 and 3 Ph. and M. pt. 3; Feet of F. Northants. Trin. 2 and 3 Ph. and M.

³² *Com. Pleas, Deeds Enr.* Trin. 2 and 3, Ph. and M. ro. 9, 10.

³³ *Pat. R.* 13 Eliz. pt. 11.

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whom it had passed before 1598 to Sir Thomas Cecil and his wife Dorothy, who were then holding it with the manor of Bozeat Latimers (q.v.), with which it continued to be held.

View of frankpledge was claimed in the vill of Bozeat by the Prior of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem in 1330.¹

The church of *ST. MARY THE CHURCH VIRGIN* consists of chancel, 29 ft. by 16 ft. 3 in.; clerestoried nave, 48 ft. by 22 ft.; north and south aisles, south porch, and west tower, 10 ft. 6 in. square, surmounted by a broach spire. The width across nave and aisles is 46 ft. 6 in., all measurements being internal.

The church is faced throughout with rubble and is plastered internally. The chancel has a modern eaved roof covered with tiles, but the low-pitched leaved roofs of the nave and aisles are behind plain parapets.

The tower and spire were taken down in 1880² and rebuilt in 1883, but retain most of their architectural features, the old stonework having been used where possible. The tower was of late-12th-century date, with later alterations, and the spire an addition in the 14th century. To the latter period the chancel arch and east window, the aisle windows, and the porch belong, but the priest's doorway, a low side window in the chancel, and the south doorway of the nave are of 13th-century date. No other 13th-century work remains. The side windows of the chancel, and the west window and doorway of the tower are insertions of the 15th century, and the clerestory is an addition of the same period. At the east end of the nave the north-east and south-east angles of the earlier aisleless church remain, but whether aisles were first added in the 14th century or were then only rebuilt is uncertain. The existing south arcade is of the early 14th century and the north arcade rather later, but a keel shaped string runs at sill level along the south aisle externally,³ which, if in its original position, would indicate the existence on this side of a 13th-century aisle. It may, however, be old work re-used in the 14th century, the south doorway being then brought forward.

The chancel was restored in 1874 and again in 1895; it has 14th-century diagonal angle buttresses of three stages and a pointed east window of three trefoiled lights with unrestored reticulated tracery and hood-mould. The double piscina in the south wall, with cinquefoiled openings, is of the late 14th century, though the one remaining bowl may be earlier. The priest's doorway has a pointed arch of a single continuous chamfered order and hood-mould terminating in notch-heads, but is now blocked. The low side window is in the usual position at the west end of the south wall and consists of a tall and very narrow lancet, divided just above mid-height by a transom. It has an external hood-mould and simple chamfer all round, and a plain chamfered rear-arch, but the lower part is blocked and plastered over on both sides: the upper portion is glazed. Immediately below the sloping sill, and close to the floor, is a small rectangular recess, or cupboard.⁴ The side windows of the chancel are square-headed with Perpendicular tracery; in the north wall two of

two cinquefoiled lights, and on the south a similar window at the west end and one of three lights above the piscina. The chancel arch is of two chamfered orders, the inner springing from half-octagonal responds with moulded capitals and the outer continued to the ground.

The nave arcades are of three bays with pointed arches of two chamfered orders springing from octagonal piers with moulded capitals and bases, but dying into the walls at each end. At the east end of the north arcade the circular rood-loft stair remains in a very perfect state, with lower and upper doorways, the wall being thickened out and encroaching on the aisle. Above the arcades, at the level of the sills of the clerestory windows, are the corbels of the old nave roof, six on the north and five on the south side.

The north aisle has a pointed east window of two cinquefoiled lights and cusped quatrefoil in the head, and in the north wall three square-headed windows, the easternmost of three and the others of two trefoiled lights. The north doorway is of two continuous chamfered orders with moulded label. The aisle is divided externally into three bays by buttresses, those at the angles being diagonal, but is without string-course or plinth. In the west wall, now covered by a modern vestry, is a small oblong window, chamfered all round, the sill of which is 6 ft. above the floor,⁵ and in the east wall an image-bracket and canopied niche respectively south and north of the aisle altar.

The pointed east window of the south aisle is of three cinquefoiled lights with cusped rectilinear tracery, and in the south wall, near its east end, is a square-headed window of three trefoiled lights. The second bay is blank, but west of the porch is a three-light pointed window with reticulated tracery and high up in the west wall a small single quatrefoil opening within a circle. In the usual position in the south wall is an ogee-headed trefoiled piscina with fluted bowl, and farther west, near the doorway, an elegant 14th-century stoop with trefoiled head.

The 13th-century south doorway is of two richly moulded orders with foliated capitals, but the angle-shafts are gone. The porch has an outer doorway of two wave-moulded orders, the inner on moulded capitals and the outer continuous: above is a trefoiled niche, and in the side walls blocked windows.

There are three square-headed clerestory windows of two trefoiled lights on each side: the nave roof is partly old.

The tower is of three unequal stages, with bell-chamber windows of two recessed rounded lights with dividing shaft, under a semicircular arch with indented hood-mould, on shafts with early volute capitals and moulded bases: the west opening is ancient, but those north and south are restored. In the lofty lower stage on the south side is a single-light window of similar type, without hood-mould, but on the north both the lower stages are blank. The diagonal angle buttresses were probably added after the erection of the west doorway and window, the insertion of which weakened the tower.⁶ The doorway has continuous moulded

¹ *Plac. de Quo Warr.* (Rec. Com.) 531.

² *Assoc. Arch. Soc. Reports*, xiv, p. xli; xv, p. lxxxviii. Some 12 or 14 tons of masonry of the tower fell on the nave roof in the spring of 1877, and the fall of the spire was threatened.

³ It occurs in the east wall and south wall east of the porch stopping at the

middle buttress, but has been removed in the eastern bay.

⁴ *Assoc. Arch. Soc. Reports*, xxix, 390. The height of the window is 9 ft. 8 in., width 10 in., height of sill above floor inside 3 ft. 5 in. The recess is 16 in. wide and 11 in. high.

⁵ The opening is 19 in. by 6 in.,

chamfered to 26 in. by 11 in.

⁶ In 1849 the tower was described as being in a very insecure state. The west doorway and window had been partly walled up and the tower cramped to arrest its entire destruction. There were extensive cracks and bulgings on the north side: *Chs. Arch. N^oton*. 199.



BOZEAT CHURCH, FROM THE SOUTH-WEST, c. 1800



BOZFAT: THE OLD MILL

jamb and head set in a rectangular frame with cusped spandrels; the window is more elaborate, with ogee head and crocketed hood-mould, of two cinquefoiled lights, battlemented transom, and modern quatrefoil tracery. In the middle stage facing west is a plain round-headed opening, which, though modern, reproduces an original feature. There is no vice. The semi-circular tower arch is of two un moulded orders with rounded label, on quirked and chamfered imposts: above it, now opening to the nave, is a small round-headed window. The broach spire rises from a 14th-century corbel table of tendrils and heads, and has plain angles and two sets of lights on its cardinal faces: the broaches are very low.

The 15th-century chancel screen has been restored and its battlemented top rail is new. It consists of three main bays, the side ones subdivided, with solid lower panels and traceried openings. The screen retains traces of gilding and colour, and in the eight lower panels is a series of paintings, those on the north side representing the expulsion from Eden and the Annunciation: on the south the figure of one of the Three Kings remains, but the second panel is blank and the others have single unidentified figures. Much of the nave seating is also of 15th-century date.

The font has a plain octagonal bowl and pedestal on a moulded base. The wooden pulpit is modern. In the nave is an oak chest dated 1686, with the names of the churchwardens, and in the chancel an 18th-century brass chandelier of twelve lights. The royal arms of George III (before 1801) are over the tower arch.

There are five bells, the first by Henry Penn of Peterborough 1723, the second a recasting by Taylor & Co. in 1884 of a medieval bell, the third undated by Newcombe of Leicester, and the fourth and tenor by Hugh Watts of Leicester, dated respectively 1635 and 1633.¹

The plate consists of a silver cup and cover paten of 1636, and a modern brass alms dish.²

The earlier registers were destroyed in a fire at the vicarage 9 September 1729. The existing first volume contains entries of baptisms and burials from September 1729 to 1812, and marriages from 1729 to 1754: the second volume marriages from 1754 to 1781.

The church was granted to the *ADVOWSON* abbey of Dryburgh (co. Berwick) (probably by its founder, David King of Scotland) and leased by Dryburgh to the abbey of St. James without Northampton for a rent during the life of Athelard, after the death of Ædgar his father, of 20s. and a bezant, or 2s., and after the death of Athelard for a yearly payment of 2½ marks.³ It was then granted *circa* 1150–60 by Walter de Isel to the abbey of St. James.⁴ In 1291 the church was valued at £6 yearly, and a pension from it of £1 13s. 4d. was paid to the Prior of St. Andrews,⁵ to whom, according to Bridges, the pension of 2½ marks had been assigned

by Dryburgh Abbey.⁶ In the *Valor* of 1535 the rectory was returned as appropriated to the abbey of St. James, and the vicarage was valued at £6 yearly.⁷ The advowson was held with the manor of Marshes (q.v.) in the first grants made of that manor after the Dissolution, and both rectory and advowson were conveyed by John Marshe and his wife Alice to John Dobbes in 1557, and by him to Baldwin Payne.⁸

The rectory seems to have been already held on lease by a member of the Payne family. It had been leased for 21 years on 2 June 1526 to John Hardwyke of Sharnbroke, co. Bedford, by the abbey of St. James, and on surrender of this lease was in 1545 granted to Sir Robert Tyrwhitt, junr., by the Crown.⁹ William Payne subsequently sued George and Richard Payne¹⁰ to recover possession of a lease of the rectory which, it was stated, had been granted by the abbey on 24 March 1538 to Richard Cromwell, esq., for 80 years from the expiration of the former lease to John Hardwyke; after which Richard Cromwell had conveyed his interest to Daniel Payne, who had bequeathed it in 1558 to his son William, the plaintiff. It is not clear what the connexion between Baldwin and Daniel Payne was. The rectory was apparently next held in moieties by two Payne ladies, by whom it was conveyed with the advowson to Lewis Lord Mordaunt, one half by Thomas Pacye and Denise his wife in 1573,¹¹ the other half by Ursula Payne in 1575.¹² By Lewis Lord Mordaunt and Henry Mordaunt his son and heir the rectory and advowson were in 1600 conveyed to John Wiseman,¹³ and they continued to be held with the manor (q.v.), Earl Spencer, who presented in 1796, being owner of the impropriate rectory at the passing of the Inclosure Act in 1798. In the following century the rectory was held by Dr. Lawrence, Archbishop of Cashel, whose representatives held it in 1849, Earl Spencer being then still patron.¹⁴ The advowson is now held by the Bishop of Peterborough, to whom it was conveyed by Earl Spencer in 1922.¹⁵

The sum of £20 was left for the *CHARITIES* poor by a person named Cox. In respect of this a sum of £1 is distributed in bread by the churchwardens the first Sunday after Christmas.

An allotment of 13 acres was set out on the inclosure of the parish for the following purposes: 11 acres 3 roods thereof for reparation of the church; 1 acre for repair of the wells in the parish; and 1 rood for the parish clerk. The land is let for £14 19s., and of this £1 6s. is applied by two trustees appointed by the Parish Council in cleaning the parish well and the remainder is applied by the churchwardens in the repair of the church.

In 1830 a sum of 5s. yearly was distributed to the ten oldest men of the parish from issues of the lands of Mr. Thomas Dexter, by whom it was then administered.¹⁶

¹ North, *Ch. Bells of Northants.* 198, where the inscriptions are given. The old second had the H.S. shield of the Bury St. Edmunds foundry three times repeated (cf. third bell at Newton Bromswold).

² Markham, *Ch. Plate of Northants.* 40.

³ Cott. Chart. xxi, 13.

⁴ Harl. Chart. 52, C. 4.

⁵ *Tax. Eccl. (Rec. Com.)*, 40.

⁶ *Hist. of Northants.* ii, 160.

⁷ *Op. cit. (Rec. Com.)*, iv, 311.

⁸ Pat. R. 2 & 3 Ph. and M. pt. 5; Feet of F. Northants. Mich. 3 and 4 Ph. and M.

⁹ *L. and P. Hen. VIII*, xx, p. 683.

¹⁰ Chan. Proc. (Ser. 2), cxliv, 97.

¹¹ Feet of F. Northants. East. 15 Eliz.

¹² Ibid. Trin. 17 Eliz.

¹³ Ibid. Mich. 42 and 43 Eliz.

¹⁴ Lewis, *Topog. Dict.* (1849).

¹⁵ Order in Council, 3 March 1922.

¹⁶ *Char. Comm. Rep.* 1830, xxiii, 313.

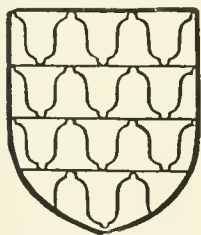
A HISTORY OF NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

CHELVESTON-CUM-CALDECOTT

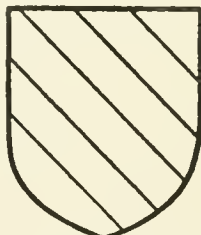
Celuestone and Caldecote (xi cent.); Chestone and Calcote (xv cent.); Chelston and Caldecote (xviii cent.).

Chelveston-cum-Caldecott is a small parish lying on the east bank of the River Nene, which forms its western boundary, the village of Chelveston being about $2\frac{1}{4}$ miles north-east of Higham Ferrers. The church of St. John the Baptist stands midway between the two villages. Some of the inhabitants are employed in boot-making, but the establishment of this industry has not yet led to an increase of population, the number of inhabitants having declined from 401 in 1891 to 354 in 1931. The chief occupation is still agriculture, and most of the land is now permanent grass. The soil is alluvial along the bank of the river; the subsoils are Oxford Clay, red marls, and Great Oolite. The common fields were inclosed by a private Act in 1801.¹

At the time of the Domesday Survey *MANOR CHELVESTON* with *CALDECOTT* was a member of the manor of Higham Ferrers, which belonged to William Peverel; it was assessed for 1 hide and 3 virgates.² This land subsequently passed, with the rest of the honor of Peverel, to William de Ferrers, who in 1224 granted 2 tofts in Chelveston and 14 virgates and 5 cottages in Caldecott to Hubert de Burgh and Margaret his wife, to hold for one knight's fee.³ It was taken into the king's hands at the time of Hubert's disgrace, but was restored to him in November 1232,⁴ and was presumably still in his possession in 1248, when William de Ferrers, Earl of Derby, received a grant of free warren in his demesne lands of Chelveston only;⁵ but it is not included among the Northamptonshire lands of which John de Burgh, Hubert's son and heir, died seised in 1274.⁶



FERRERS. *Vairy or and gules.*



ST. PHILIBERT. *Bendy argent and azure.*

In 1242 Payn de St. Philibert held half a fee in Caldecott and Chelveston of William de Ferrers;⁷ this passed on his death to his son Hugh, who in 1269 obtained a quitclaim of the dower of Iseult, formerly the wife of Payn and then the wife of Walter de Nevill, in exchange for a rent of $26\frac{1}{2}$ marks, to be paid during the life of Iseult.⁸ Hugh de St. Philibert lived until 1300, when he left his son Hugh as his heir,⁹ but the freehold in Chelveston had been acquired before 1284 by Richard Siward, who held a tenth of a fee in this parish.¹⁰ All his lands, here and in Hampshire and

Wiltshire, were taken into the king's hand on 15 April 1296 on account of his rebellion.¹¹ He was released next year on condition that he should 'forthwith cross with the King to foreign parts and serve faithfully against the King of France, the King's enemy, and others, and that he will deliver John his son as a hostage until he find such security as the King will demand'.¹² He recovered his lands before the end of the following September,¹³ and his son John, having 'no heir within the realm of England', granted the manor to Thomas Earl of Lancaster and his heirs. Lancaster returned it to him to hold for his life, and afterwards granted the reversion to Robert de Holand and his heirs. When John Siward died in the spring of 1330, Robert, the son and heir of Robert de Holand, was a minor in the king's wardship.¹⁴ The custody of the manor, which contained $301\frac{1}{2}$ acres of arable (of which half might be sown yearly), 8 acres of meadow along the bank of the Nene, a mill, a dovecote, and a capital messuage, with a garden worth 6s. 8d. yearly in fruit and herbs, was committed on 18 June 1330 to the king's kinsman, Henry Earl of Lancaster,¹⁵ but on 10 August the issues were granted by Edward III to Robert de Holand for his good service in the war against Scotland.¹⁶

This Robert de Holand in 1331 settled Chelveston with other lands on himself for life and after his death on his son Robert and his sons, with contingent remainder to Thomas and Alan, brothers of the younger Robert.¹⁷ On the death of Sir Robert de Holand in 1373 it was stated that he held the Chelveston and other manors, 'to him and the heirs male of his body, and that John his son is his next heir male and of full age'.¹⁸ The existing inquest, however, states that the manor was settled on Sir Robert, his wife Maud and son Robert; that Robert Holand the son had died seised on 16 March 1373, and that Maud his daughter, the wife of Sir John Lovel, was his heir.¹⁹ Maud accordingly obtained seisin of the manor, which followed the descent of the Lovel barony. John Lord Lovel, the great-grandson of Maud de Holand, forfeited the estate for his fidelity to the Lancastrian cause; it was granted to Anne Duchess of Exeter, sister of Edward IV, in 1461, for life.²⁰ A further grant was made, on 22 December 1462, to her and the heirs of her body by Henry Duke of Exeter;²¹ but on 16 March 1477 a fresh grant was made to Thomas Marquess of Dorset, son of the king's consort Elizabeth Woodville,²² but the property was afterwards in the hands of Francis Lord Lovel. He had been a child at the time of his father's death in 1465, and having distinguished himself under Richard Duke of Gloucester in the expedition of 1480 against the Scots, was created Viscount Lovel on 4 January 1483. After fighting for Richard III at Bosworth Field he was attainted, whereby his lands and honours became forfeit.²³

The manor of Chelveston with Caldecott was granted by Henry VII on 9 March 1486 to Sir Charles Somer-

¹ 41 Geo. III, c. 122.

² *V.C.H. Northants.* i, 336.

³ Feet of F. Northants. file 18, no. 108. The grant was enrolled on 14 September 1227 (*Cal. Chart. R.* 1226-57, p. 60).

⁴ Close 17 Hen. III, m. 17.

⁵ *Cal. Chart. R.* 1226-57, p. 332.

⁶ Chan. Inq. p.m. Edw. I, file 11, no. 2.

⁷ *Bk. of Fees*, ii, 933.

⁸ Feet of F. Northants. file 49, no. 877.

⁹ Chan. Inq. p.m. Edw. I, file 17, no. 14.

¹⁰ *Feud. Aids*, iv, 14.

¹¹ *Cal. Fine R.* i, 371.

¹² *Ibid.* 389.

¹³ Chan. Inq. p.m. Edw. I, file 81; *Cal. Inq.* ii, no. 423, p. 296.

¹⁴ Chan. Inq. p.m. Edw. III, file 22, no. 5.

¹⁵ *Ibid.*; *Feud. Aids*, vi, 369; *Cal. Fine R.* v, 182.

¹⁶ *Cal. Pat.* 1330-4, p. 459.

¹⁷ Feet of F. Northants. file 73, no. 87.

¹⁸ Close 47 Edw. III, m. 32.

¹⁹ Chan. Inq. p.m. 47 Edw. III (1st nos.), no. 19.

²⁰ *Cal. Pat.* 1461-7, p. 7.

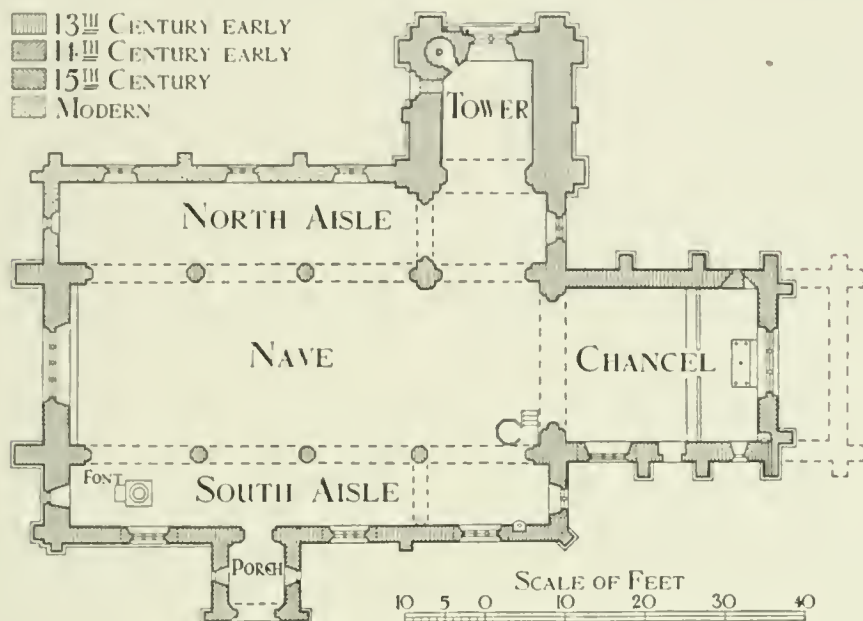
²¹ *Ibid.* p. 104.

²² *Cal. Pat.* 1467-77, p. 582.

²³ *Dict. Nat. Biog.*; G.E.C. *Complete Peerage*.

set, afterwards Earl of Worcester.¹ He settled it on himself and his wife Eleanor, with remainder to his younger son George Somerset for life; and died on 15 April 1526, leaving as his heir his son Henry,² to whose son and heir William Earl of Worcester the grant was confirmed by Edward VI on 27 March 1553.³ The property was conveyed by William Earl of Worcester, Dame Christian his wife, and Sir George Somerset to the Pickerings in 1553,⁴ and was shortly afterwards bought by John Ekins. On 9 January 1557 Ekins settled a moiety of it on his younger son John

and for Mary's jointure; the other moiety to the use of Alexander and Susan his wife for life; the remainder in both being to the sons of Robert and Mary. Robert, in his turn, settled a portion of his estate in March 1641 to the use of his younger children, Robert, Thomas, Mary, Susan, and Anne; and died a few days later, leaving as his heir his son, another Alexander.¹⁰ This Alexander Ekins married Jane, the eldest daughter of John Sawyer, and died on 15 January 1656, leaving two sons, John and Alexander.¹¹ John Ekins died on 14 July 1688,¹¹ and was succeeded by his brother



PLAN OF CHELVESTON-CUM-CALDECOTT CHURCH

in tail, with contingent remainders to his daughters Eleanor and Elizabeth, one of the trustees for this settlement being his brother Thomas Ekins.⁵ The other moiety passed on the death of the elder John Ekins, in the same month, to his eldest son William, who was 21.

William Ekins died on 14 January 1561, having bequeathed all his lands to his wife Prudence and her expected child, who was born about the 1st of May, and proved to be a girl, and was named Isabel.⁶ After this date the descent of both moieties becomes for a time extremely difficult to trace, but the whole estate seems to have been acquired by Robert, the son of Thomas Ekins, towards the end of the 16th century.⁷

Alexander Ekins, the son and heir of Robert, was dealing with the manor in 1597, when he received a warranty concerning a moiety from William Ley, John Ekins, William Barton the elder and Elizabeth his wife, and William Barton the younger, Elizabeth Cooper, widow, and James Hopkyns and Eleanor his wife.⁸ The manor was settled by Alexander on 20 September 1623, on the marriage of his son Robert to Mary Smith.⁹ A moiety of the manor and all the premises in Chelveston, except the meadows previously assigned to Alexander, were assigned to the use of Robert and Mary

Alexander,¹² who with his wife Jane conveyed the manor in 1694 to Geoffrey Barton and John Sawyer,¹³ by whom it was sold in 1708 to Thomas Allen.¹⁴

After the death of Thomas Allen the succession to the estate was for some years disputed, but the property eventually came into the possession of the Disbrowe family. Edward Disbrowe, who called Edward Cromwell Disbrowe to warrant, was vouchee in a recovery in 1812.

Mr. H. C. Wise was lord of the manor in 1876.

The church of *ST. JOHN THE CHURCH BAPTIST* stands between the two villages and consists of chancel, 24 ft. 6 in. by 19 ft. 6 in.; clerestoried nave, 58 ft. by 19 ft. 6 in.; north and south aisles, south porch, and north-east tower, 11 ft. by 12 ft., all these measurements being internal. The north aisle is 10 ft. 4 in. wide and the south aisle 7 ft. 8 in., the width across nave and aisles being 43 ft. 2 in. The eastern bay of each aisle is separated from the rest by an arch from the outer wall to the nave pier, and to the north-east chapel thus formed the tower is attached on its north side.

Substantially the building dates from c. 1220 to 1250, and the only subsequent alterations to the plan

¹ *Cal. Pat.* 1485-94, p. 100. It was also granted on 22 March 1487 to the Lady Margaret (*ibid.* 155), but the previous grant rendered this gift of no effect.

² *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), xlv, no. 65; *Coll. Topog. et Gen.* v, pp. xxiv, 305.

³ *Pat.* 7 Edw. VI, pt. 3.

⁴ Feet of F. Div. Co. Mich. 1 Mary.

⁵ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), cxv, no. 15.

⁶ *Ibid.* cxxxi, 157.

⁷ Feet of F. Northants. Mich. 25 & 26 Eliz., Easter 35 Eliz.; *Pat.* 32 Eliz. pt. 5.

⁸ Feet of F. Northants. Mich. 39 & 40 Eliz.

⁹ *Ibid.* Easter 21 Jas. I, *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), dlxxxviii, 78.

¹⁰ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), dxxiv, 99.

¹¹ M.I. at Chelveston.

¹² *Recov. R.* Easter 1 Will. and Mary, m. 80.

¹³ Feet of F. Northants. Hil. 6 Will. III.

¹⁴ *Ibid.* Hil. 6 Anne.

A HISTORY OF NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

have been the addition of the porch and the shortening of the chancel; the clerestory is part of the 13th-century fabric. About 1290–1300 new windows were inserted in the south aisle and the porch was erected, and further changes took place in the 15th century, when the present west window of the nave was put in and the chancel probably assumed its present appearance. The east window is of this period and, though evidence is wanting, it is not unreasonable to suppose that the chancel was shortened by a bay about this time. The north aisle, with the exception of its east bay, was taken down at some time unknown¹ and the arcade filled in; it was rebuilt in its present form in 1849, in which year the church was restored and a west gallery pulled down.

The church is built throughout of rubble, and internally the walls are plastered.² The chancel has a tiled eaved roof, but the roofs of the nave and aisles are slated,³ behind plain ashlar parapets.

The chancel is divided by buttresses into three short bays and has a pointed east window of three cinquefoiled lights with Perpendicular tracery. On each side of the window within is a blocked and mutilated image-recess, the canopies and one of the brackets having been destroyed. A lancet window and a double piscina were discovered and opened out in 1909 at the east end of the south wall; the piscina was partly covered by the existing east wall, but is now fully exposed to view by the removal of part of the masonry. The recess has a square chamfered head and octagonal dividing-shaft and one of the bowls is perfect: the projecting front of the second bowl has been cut away. The lancet window, which is above the piscina at the extreme end of this wall, has been restored and the width of its inner splay reduced, but the original jambs remain.⁴ The chancel appears to have been originally about 9 ft. longer than at present. The priest's doorway is of a single chamfered order with label, and in the western bay is a 15th-century square-headed window of three cinquefoiled lights with quatrefoils in the head. There are now no windows in the north wall, but near the east end is a small rectangular aumbry and what appears to be part of a lancet jamb: externally the wall is covered by a thin coat of plaster. The chancel arch is of two chamfered orders, on double chamfered responds with moulded capitals and bases.

The nave arcades are of four bays with arches of two chamfered orders springing from octagonal piers with moulded capitals and bases and from responds of the same type; in the eastern bay of the north aisle the pier is a compound one with attached responds carrying the nave and aisle arches, and giving support to the tower. At the west end of the nave are massive buttresses of two stages to take the thrust of the arcades, and between them a four-centred window of four cinquefoiled lights with Perpendicular tracery. This window, which is high in the wall, takes the place of a group of lancets the outer jamb-stones of which are still in position on either side, visible both within and without. Below the window internally is a stone bench. The clerestory has four restored lancet openings on the south side and three on the north, all without hood-moulds.

In the south aisle the west window is a restored tre-

foiled lancet, but that at the east is of two lights with forked mullion, and those in the south wall of three lights with uncusped intersecting tracery. The piscina of the aisle altar remains in the usual position, with plain projecting bowl and trefoiled head with label terminating in notch-heads. The arch between the eastern bay and the aisle is of two hollow chamfered orders, carried on the wall side by a corbel: it is of the same date as the adjacent windows. The 13th-century south doorway has a sharply pointed arch of two chamfered orders and label, the outer on nook-shafts with moulded capitals and bases, the inner continued to the ground below imposts. The outer doorway of the porch is of two continuous orders, the inner with wave-moulding, the outer hollow-chamfered; built into the gable is a stone dated 1685.

The 13th-century arch between the north aisle and its eastern bay, or chapel, is of two chamfered orders springing from half-round responds with moulded capitals and bases, and the tower arch is of three orders continued to the ground on the south and dying out on the north side. The windows of the modern north aisle are in the style of the 14th century, but the east window is original, of two lancet lights with pierced spandrel.

The tower is 60 ft. in height and of three stages, with pairs of gabled buttresses at the north-west and north-east angles in the lower stage, the height of which is about equal to the other two. The south-east buttress is not gabled. At the second stage the walls set back with a line of nail-head ornament and the bell-chamber windows are of two lancet lights, with shafted jambs, set within a pointed containing arch: the tympanum is unpierced. There are flat buttresses east and west to about half the height of the lower stage, which on the north has a restored window of two trefoiled lights occupying the middle of a 13th-century wall arcade of three arches on shafts with moulded capitals and bases. There is a vice in the north-west corner and adjoining it on the west an external doorway, now blocked, which, though modern, appears to reproduce an original entrance, the bases of the nook shafts and jambs being ancient. The battlemented parapet is a 15th-century addition: its angle pinnacles are gone.

The 13th-century font has a plain octagonal bowl on a short shaft and two steps. The oak pulpit is modern.⁵ There is a scratch dial on the east jamb of the porch doorway.

Bridges records inscriptions in the floor of the chancel to Alexander Ekins (d. 1655), Ann Sawyer (d. 1682), James Sawyer, junr. (d. 1692), Thomas Sawyer (d. 1694), William Gardner (d. 1705), and Mary Allen (d. 1710).⁶

There are five bells, the treble by Thomas Eayre of Kettering 1744, the third and fourth by Taylor & Son, St. Neots, 1819, and the second and tenor dated 1727.⁷

The plate consists of a silver cup and paten of 1851, a paten of 1849, a cup of 1852, and a plated flagon.⁸

The registers before 1812 are as follows: (i) baptisms 1573–1662, marriages 1573–1651, burials 1573–1644;⁹ (ii) missing; (iii) baptisms and burials 1723–54, marriages 1723–53; (iv) baptisms and burials 1754–1812; (v) marriages 1755–1812.

¹ The writer in *Chs. Arch. N'ton.* (1849) assumes that the aisle was taken down c. 1290, but there seems to be no evidence of this.

² A portion of the plaster has been stripped from the lower part of the chancel walls.

³ Before the restoration they were covered with lead. The church was reopened after restoration on 27 Dec. 1849.

⁴ The splay was originally 4 ft. 8 in. wide: it has been reduced to 2 ft. 8 in.

⁵ In memory of Jane Harriet Wise: it has linen pattern panels.

⁶ *Hist. of Northants.* ii, 163.

⁷ North, *Ch. Bells of Northants.* 220, where the inscriptions are given.

⁸ Markham, *Ch. Plate of Northants.* 68.

⁹ After 1642 this volume is badly kept.

The rectory and advowson of Chelveston followed the descent of Higham Ferrers (q.v.); they remained in the possession of the Crown until *ADVOWSON* 1603, when the rectory was granted by Queen Elizabeth to Christopher Freeman.¹ Henry Freeman conveyed it in 1615 to Nicholas Atkins,² whose family remained in possession of it for nearly a hundred years. Nicholas Atkins and Elizabeth his wife dealt with it by fine in 1619, and in 1652 Augustine Atkins obtained a quitclaim from John Atkins the younger and Elizabeth his wife and Nicholas Atkins and Mary his wife.³ John Atkins was vouchee in a recovery concerning the rectory and tithes in 1688,⁴ and he and his wife Elizabeth conveyed them to Thomas Roberts in 1705.⁵ After this date the property seems once more to have followed the descent of Higham Ferrers, and within the next twenty years the livings were united. The living is still a chapelry attached to the vicarage of Higham Ferrers.

Thomas Neale, by his will dated *CHARITIES* 5 January 1765, gave £20 to the minister and churchwardens, the income to be applied for the benefit of the poor on Christmas Day. The income, amounting to 12s., is distributed in bread.

James Sawyer and his son Thomas in their lifetime erected almshouses at Chelveston and the former by his will proved at London 30 April 1703 devised property for their upkeep and support of the inmates. The Charity is regulated by a Scheme of the Charity Commissioners dated 12 May 1911. The trustees are six in number, two appointed by the Parish Council of Chelveston-cum-Caldecott, two by the Urban District Council of Raunds, and two co-optative trustees. The property consists of two almshouses and a building formerly used as almshouses, 14 a. 1 r. 10 p. of land called 'Hospital Close', and 1 a. 1 r. called 'Captains Close' in Chelveston. The gross income is £24 12s. per annum, which is applied in the upkeep of the property and in grants to the two alms-people, one of whom must have been a resident of Chelveston and the other of the parish of Raunds for not less than three years.

The Sawyer almshouses, on the Stanwick road, have been restored and modernized. The building is of rubble, with tiled roof, and bears a tablet inscribed 'This House was erected by James Sawyer, gent., and Thomas Sawyer his son, and Ten Pounds per annum by them therewith given for the use of four poor widows for ever towards their maintenance, Anno Domini 1708'.

EASTON MAUDIT

Estone, Eston (xi cent.); Eston Mauduyt (xiv cent.).

This small but delightful parish, bounded on the east by Bozeat, north by Grendon, and west by Yardley Hastings, lies on the borders of Buckinghamshire and Bedfordshire, and west of the road between Wellingborough and Olney. The whole parish, which contains an area of 1,800 acres, and extends from north to south about 2 miles, from east to west about 1, is owned, with the exception of the rectorial lands, by the Marquess of Northampton.

The population, which was only 192 in 1871, had in 1931 sunk to 129. But there are indications that Easton Maudit once housed a considerably larger number of inhabitants. It is said that there were once a number of weavers' shops here,⁶ and Bridges wrote that in his day the parish had been considerably depopulated since it had been inclosed by Sir Christopher Yelverton in the time of Charles I.⁷

The village is about 2½ miles south-east from Castle Ashby and Earl's Barton station on the Northampton and Peterborough branch of the L.M.S. railway. At its northern extremity is the church of St. Peter and St. Paul, with the vicarage south-west and the school south-east of it.

A group of fine trees near the church marks the spot where the handsome manor-house which was at one time the seat of the Earls of Sussex formerly stood. Adjoining the house was a walled park, and beyond it a larger inclosure surrounded by a stone wall; of this inclosure the wood called Hornwood,

mentioned in various conveyances, formed part. Bridges writes of a very large wood between Easton and Yardley,



EASTON MAUDIT: THE CHURCH

in the west of the lordship, divided between the Earls of Northampton and Sussex, and of a small coppice of

¹ Pat. 44 Eliz. pt. xxiii; 4 Jas. I, pt. xix.

² Feet of F. Northants. East. 13 Jas. I.

³ Ibid. Mich. 1652.

⁴ Recov. R. Easter 4 Jas. II, m. 161.

⁵ Feet of F. Northants Mich. 4 Anne.

⁶ Whellan, *Hist. of Northants*.

⁷ *Hist. of Northants*. ii, 163.

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wood at Barmer's Hill.¹ At the close of last century 295 acres were woodland.²

The manor-house, or hall, was pulled down immediately after the sale of the estate in 1801, but a drawing of the east front made in 1721³ shows a façade of considerable extent, two stories high, with a return south wing of three stories forming two sides of a court, which appears to have been inclosed on the north by a hedge and trees, and open to the east.⁴ There was already a house in existence when Christopher Yelverton purchased the estate, but the drawing of 1721 shows a rather widespreading manor-house of the Jacobean period with central porch, subsidiary side porches, stone gables and dormers, and mullioned windows, some of which had been replaced by sashes. The general disposition was symmetrical, though the individual features were irregular.⁵ Two doorways with pointed arches may have belonged to an older house, but it would appear that the house was rebuilt about 1600. The Rev. W. Cole, who accompanied Horace Walpole when he visited Easton Maudit in 1763, mentions a 'fine large drawing-room', and notes 'two or three old coats of alliances of the Yelverton family in the staircase windows', as well as a shield of the family arms in the chapel, but the only relics of the house known to have been preserved are two 18th-century carved chimney-pieces and two sets of stone gate piers.⁶ At the time of its demolition the house contained seventy rooms.⁷

'The Bishop's room' was the room occupied by the venerable Bishop Morton, who had been successively Bishop of Chester, Lichfield, and Durham. After the abolition of episcopacy in 1646 he fell into extreme poverty and lived for a time with Sir Christopher Yelverton at Easton Maudit as tutor of the younger members of the family until his death there in 1659 at the age of 95,⁸ when a floor-slab was placed to his memory in the church.

The vicarage, considerably remodelled since his day, was the home for twenty-nine years of Dr. Thomas Percy⁹ (1729–1811), who was presented to the living in 1753 by the college of Christ Church, Oxford. It was here that his most important work, including the publication of the *Reliques of Ancient Poetry*, was accomplished. The church registers contain specimens of his beautifully clear handwriting.¹⁰ Among his visitors were Shenstone and Garrick, Goldsmith, and the great Doctor and his friend Miss Williams. Of Dr. Johnson's visit in 1764 Mrs. Percy told Cradock¹¹ that 'her husband looked out all sorts of books to be ready for his amusement after breakfast, and that Johnson was so attentive and polite to her that when her husband mentioned the literature prepared in the study he said: "No, Sir, I shall first wait upon Mrs. Percy to feed the ducks."'

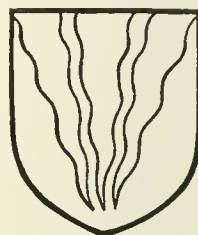
Dr. Percy was succeeded in the living by his friend and correspondent, the philologist Robert Nares, presented in 1782 to this living, which he held until 1805. Robert Nares, who was Keeper of Manuscripts at the

British Museum, assisted in 1790 in completing Bridges's *History of Northamptonshire*.¹²

The parish lies at a level of about 200 to 300 ft. Its soil is various, but chiefly clayey; its subsoil clay. The crops grown are the ordinary cereals.

Winemar [the Fleming, otherwise Wine-mar de Hamslope], who was returned in the Survey as holding of the Countess Judith 1 virgate of land in Bozeat, was holding in chief at the same time 2 hides and 3 virgates in a place unnamed in the hundred of Higham.¹³ This was presumably EASTON, since his successor Michael de Hamslope was entered in the Northampton Survey as holding 3½ hides and 1 great virgate in Easton and Strixton.¹⁴ The 2 hides and 3 virgates recorded in 1086 had been held before the Conquest by six freemen, one of whom was called Osgot, and his part of the land had been claimed by the Countess Judith. The lands held in Easton by Michael de Hamslope evidently passed to William Maudit, the King's Chamberlain, by his marriage with Maud daughter of Michael, as in 1242 land in Easton was held in chief of the king by William Maudit,¹⁵ of whom William de Nowers was holding 3 parts of a fee in Easton, while Robert Wolf, or 'Lupus', was holding of him half a fee in Esse [Ashby] and Easton. Another account gives a fee in Easton to William de Nowers, and half a fee in Ashby to Robert Wolf.¹⁶ This fee was held of the Mauduits until at the death of William Maudit, s.p., in 1267, it passed with the earldom to William de Beauchamp, the younger, son of William Maudit's sister Isabel, deceased, the wife of William de Beauchamp, the elder.¹⁷ It was held by the Beauchamps, Earls of Warwick, until early in the 15th century, as of their manor of Hanslope.

John Maudit in 1206–7 granted land in Easton to Gilbert son of Richard de Easton and Christiane his mother;¹⁸ and it was probably the same John Maudit who, as lord of Easton next Bozeat, made a grant to the canons of St. James near Northampton of the wood called Stonyway in Bozeat and of lands in Easton.¹⁹ A lawsuit in 1306 about the advowson²⁰ (held with the manor) gives a very complete record of the early descent of this manor of Easton, of which John Maudit died seised after having made the presentation in the reign of King John. John Maudit left three daughters as his heirs, named Agnes, Flandrina, and Amice. The manor and advowson of Easton were assigned to Agnes and Flandrina as their purparty, and another tenement to Amice. Agnes Maudit had four daughters: Isabel, Sibyl, Eleanor, and Loretta; of these Isabel married William de Nowers.²¹ After the death of William de Nowers, Isabel granted to William de Fauconberg 10 acres of wood and her share of the advowson.²² This



MAUDUIT. *Gules three piles wavy or.*

¹ Bridges, *Hist. of Northants*, ii, 163.

² Whellan, *Hist. of Northants*.

³ B.M. Add. MS. 5726, reproduced in *Assoc. Arch. Soc. Reports*, xxxvi, 95: the drawing is 'taken in the coach yard'.

⁴ Pennant describes it, c. 1780, as 'a long but low old house with a quadrangle in the middle': *Journey from Chester to London* (1782 ed.), 316.

⁵ J. A. Gotch, *Assoc. Arch. Soc. Reports*, xxxvi, 95.

⁶ The two carved stone chimney-pieces

are at Castle Ashby, as are both sets of gate piers: *ibid.* 78–98, where all are figured.

⁷ Sale Catalogue; *ibid.* 100. The numerous portraits in the house about 1780 are described by Pennant, *op. cit.* 317–19.

⁸ *Dict. Nat. Biog.*

⁹ *Ibid.*

¹⁰ *N. & Q.* (Ser. 3), i, 483.

¹¹ *Ibid.*

¹² *Dict. Nat. Biog.*

¹³ *V.C.H. Northants*, i, 342, and n.

¹⁴ *Ibid.* 376b.

¹⁵ *Bk. of Fees*, 934.

¹⁶ *Ibid.* 945.

¹⁷ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* i, no. 679.

¹⁸ Feet of F. 8 John, file 12, no. 209.

¹⁹ Harl. Chart. 53 C. 39.

²⁰ De Banco R. Hil. 34 Edw. I, m. 13.

²¹ It was probably her son John who, in 1292, quitclaimed to Ralf, Abbot of St. James without Northampton, a rent of 2s. or one sparrow-hawk for the wood in Stonyway by a deed to which Robert Wolf of Easton was a witness: Harl. Chart. 54 D. 13.

²² De Banco R. Hil. 34 Edw. I, m. 13.

passed to Ralf son of Agnes, sister of Olive, mother of William de Fauconberg, probably the Ralf de Fauconberg¹ who granted to Henry de Preyers, or Pratelis, all his right in Easton, Grendon, Wollaston, and Bozeat.² Sibyl married Roger de Haukeseye and with her husband sold to the Master of the Knights Templars, Robert de Saunford, land, wood, and rent in Easton in 1236,³ and in 1239,⁴ the master afterwards enfeoffing of this share (which included part of the mill) Ralf de Karun, the second husband of Flandrina. Ralf de Karun's share went to his daughters Isabel and Amice; of whom Amice died s.p., and her share descended to her sister.⁵ Isabel probably married the William le Lou of Easton who with other persons was indicted in 1237 by the king's foresters for forest offences,⁶ since the Karun share is stated in the lawsuit to have descended to Robert le Lou, or Wolf,⁷ son and heir of Isabel Karun. Robert enfeoffed of this share Alice Barry, who then re-enfeoffed of the same Robert le Lou and his wife Isabel, by whom the share of Sibyl was also claimed, Eleanor and Loretta, her sisters, apparently having either died s.p. or possessing no interest in this manor. It was from Robert le Lou and his wife Isabel, and from the Master of the Knights Templars that the advowson was claimed in 1306 by Henry de la Leghe, Lee, or Lye, who descended from Flandrina Mauduit, daughter of John Mauduit, by her first husband. Flandrina had married (1) Robert de Leghe or Lye, by whom she had a son Henry, the father of Robert de la Leye, whose son Henry in 1306 claimed the advowson; and (2) Ralf de Karun, through whose daughter, Isabel, Robert Wolf and his wife claimed.⁸ The manor remained the property of the families of Wolf (of whom the de Preyers probably held) and Leye, Robert Wolf in 1316 being returned at the death of Guy de Beauchamp Earl of Warwick as holding a fee of him in Easton⁹ which, valued at

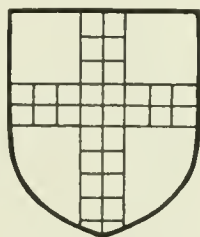
The two parts of the manor held respectively by the representatives of Agnes and Flandrina Mauduit were distinguished as Upper and Lower, or Overbury Leysplace and Netherbury Wolvesplace in Easton Maudit, both shares being ultimately acquired by the Wolf family. Sir Henry de la Leye in 1330 settled the reversion of the manor of Easton Maudit on his grandson Robert, on his marriage with Alice daughter of Sir Walter Pateshall.¹² In 1361 Sir John de la Leye and Joan his wife, and Sir Robert de Geddyng and Elizabeth his wife, conveyed the manor to William Wolf.¹³ William Wolf in 1369 conveyed the two shares of the manor, or the two manors of Easton called Netherbury Wolvesplace and Overbury Leysplace, to Sir William Latimer,¹⁴ at that date lord of Bozeat and of Danby in Yorkshire and other manors. Sir William Latimer on 29 August 1377 granted the manor to Edward Earl of March, and others,¹⁵ and Elizabeth, his widow, at her death in 1389 was holding with the manor of Bozeat (q.v.) a third of the manor of Easton by Bozeat held of Thomas Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick, as of his manor of Hanslope by service of 2s. or one sparrowhawk.¹⁶ The transfer of the manor to the Trussell family seems then to have followed, as Easton Maudit was in the hands of the heir of Laurence Trussell in 1402.¹⁷

Lady Margaret Trussell was in 1428 holding three parts of a fee in Easton and Strixton which had formerly belonged to John Wolf and Henry de Preyers,¹⁸ and a fourth part of a fee in Easton and Ashby formerly the property of John Wolf,¹⁹ both being of the fee of Mauduit. On 23 January 1481 Sir William Trussell died seised of the manor of Easton Maudit, one part of which, called the West Side of the Over Bury, was held of the queen as of her manor of Higham Ferrers, and the rest of Richard Duke of Gloucester, as of his castle of Thorpe, Bucks.²⁰ Sir William's son Edward, aged 2 at his father's death, died while still a minor, leaving a year-old son John, on 16 June 1499.²¹ This baby died on 20 December following,²² and the manor passed to Edward Trussell's daughter Elizabeth, aged 4, and later to John de Vere, Earl of Oxford, by her marriage with that earl.²³

The manor was held by the Earls of Oxford until 1578 when it was sold by Edward Earl of Oxford to Christopher Yelverton, esq.,²⁴ of Yelverton in Rougham, co. Norfolk. Sir Christopher Yelverton died, seised of the manor, in London, on 31 October 1612,²⁵ and was buried in Easton Maudit Church, with an inscription that he was Sergeant-at-Law 1589, Sergeant to the Queen 1598, Judge of the King's Bench 1601-2 until his death, and Speaker of the House of Commons 1597.²⁶ He represented the county in Parliament. His son Henry who succeeded him at the age of 47, and



LE LOU. *Argent two bars with three wolves' heads gules in the chief.*



DE LA LEYE. *Argent a cross chequy azure and or.*

100s. yearly, was assigned to his widow Alice in dower,¹⁰ and Henry de la Leye of Easton being assessed for feudal aids in Bozeat with Easton and Strixton in the same year.¹¹

¹ According to an earlier suit, William de Fauconberg gave the advowson to Simon, brother of Nicholas, grandfather of William de Pertenhalle, which William gave it to Ralph de Fauconberg, who recovered the advowson against Robert 'Le Lou' in 1285: Assize R. 624, m. 4.

² Harl. Chart. 49 l. 18.

³ Feet of F. Northants. 21 Hen. III, file 28, no. 360.

⁴ Ibid. 24 Hen. III, file 31, no. 444.

⁵ De Banco R. Hil. 34 Edw. I, m. 13.

⁶ Cal. Close, 1234-7, p. 531.

⁷ Egoлина daughter of Robert Wolf, who, temp. Hen. III, received from John Morin of Easton, son of Robert Morin, a grant of lands in Easton, in a deed wit-

nessed among others by Robert Wolf and Sir Gilbert de Nowers, was probably a daughter of this Robert. Cott. Chart. xxvii, 153.

⁸ De Banco R. Hil. 34 Edw. I, m. 13.

⁹ Chan. Inq. p.m. 9 Edw. II, no. 71, m. 51. Another quarter fee here was held by Philip Wolf.

¹⁰ Cal. Close, 1313-18, p. 276.

¹¹ Feud. Aids, iv. 30.

¹² Feet of F. Div. Co. Trin. 4 Edw. III, file 36, no. 84.

¹³ Ibid. Northants. 35 Edw. III, file 82, no. 507.

¹⁴ Ibid. file 84, nos. 610, 611.

¹⁵ Close R. 1 Ric. II, m. 35 d.

¹⁶ Chan. Inq. p.m. 12 Ric. II, no. 34.

¹⁷ Chan. Inq. p.m. 2 Hen. IV, no. 58.

¹⁸ Feud. Aids, iv. 45.

¹⁹ Ibid. 46.

²⁰ Chan. Inq. p.m. 20 Edw. IV, no. 83.

²¹ Ibid. (Ser. 2), xx, 53.

²² Ibid. 40. See also ibid. xv, 18, 25; and Cal. Inq. p.m. Hen. VII, ii, 407.

²³ An inquisition of 1508 as to waste made while Elizabeth Trussell was still ward to the Earl mentions the cutting of timber in the Little Grove (Grovetta) and the Rough Park: Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), xxii, 82.

²⁴ Feet of F. Northants. Trin. 21 Eliz.

²⁵ Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), cccxxvi, 48.

²⁶ Bridges, Hist. of Northants. ii, 166.

who started the collection of the famous library at the Easton Maudit manor-house, which contained many state papers of his father-in-law, the diplomatist and antiquary, Robert Beale, is said to have incurred the royal displeasure while Attorney-General for the position he took up at the trial of Carr Earl of Somerset, by whose influence he had been made Solicitor-General, and was tried before the Star Chamber and House of Lords, and imprisoned. But in 1625 he was made Judge of Common Pleas. After his death, on 24 January 1630, in London, he was buried at Easton Maudit, where he was succeeded in the manor by his son Sir Christopher Yelverton.¹



YELVERTON. *Argent three lions and a chief gules.*

In 1639 Sir Christopher, whose home at Easton Maudit had been visited by King Charles in 1636,² received a grant disafforesting the manor of Easton Maudit and certain lands (about 170 acres) in Bozeat, with free warren and licence to impark 500 acres.³ In this grant the manor lands and woods of Easton Maudit were estimated at 1,830 acres, and were described as within the bounds of the forest of Salcey (Salceto). The wood called Hornwood, previously included in grants of lands in Bozeat (q.v.), was also now included in it. Sir Christopher was made a baronet on 30 June 1641, in consideration of his having maintained 30 foot soldiers in Ireland for three years,⁴ and lived until 1654. His son and heir Henry, who then succeeded him, had married Susan, daughter and heir to Charles Longueville, Lord Grey de Ruthyn (Baroness Grey of Ruthyn after her father fell fighting for the king at Oxford in 1643), by whom he had three sons, Charles, Henry, and Christopher,⁵ and died in 1670, when he was succeeded by his son Charles. At the death s.p. of Charles, who had succeeded to the peerage as Lord Grey of Ruthyn, his brother Henry Yelverton succeeded to the title.⁶ In 1688 Henry Lord Grey of Ruthyn, whose ownership of the manor is notable for his completion of the library of the manor-house, suffered a recovery of the manor of Easton Maudit, including 2 mills and 70 messuages.⁷ He was made Viscount Longueville in 1690, and died in 1703. His eldest son Talbot, Viscount Longueville, was created Earl of Sussex in 1717. Lord of the Bedchamber 1722-7, and the holder of many public appointments and honours, he carried the golden spurs in 1727 at the coronation of George II.⁸ He died at his seat, Eaton Maudit, on 27 October 1731, and was succeeded by his son George Augustus, Lord of the Bedchamber to Frederick Prince of Wales in 1749, and to George Prince of Wales in 1751, who died unmarried on 8 January 1758, when he was buried at Easton Maudit. He was succeeded in the earldom and manor by his brother Henry, bearer of the golden spurs at the coronation of George III in 1761, whose first wife, Hester daughter of John Hull of Mansfield Woodhouse, with her daughter, Lady Barbara Yelverton, was painted by Gainsborough, and whose only son

Talbot died while still an infant in 1757. He himself died s.p.m. in London on 22 April 1799, when the earldom of Sussex and the viscounty became extinct.

The manor then passed by purchase in 1801 from the trustees of the late earl to the Earl of Northampton, with whose descendants it has since that date remained.

In the Domesday Survey a virgate of land in Easton was entered among the lands of the Countess Judith as held of her by Dodin.⁹ This was probably the land returned in the Northampton Survey as one great virgate in Easton and Strixton held by Payn.¹⁰ The virgate in Bozeat previously mentioned as held by Winemar may possibly have become united with the above great virgate as part of the honor of Huntingdon, since a quarter of a fee in Easton and Bozeat was subsequently held of that honor. After the death of John de Hastings, Lord of Bergavenny, in 1325, a quarter of a fee in Easton and Bozeat was returned as held of him by Roger de Grey,¹¹ who was the husband of the earl's sister Elizabeth and in 1329 was called upon to show by what warrant he claimed view of frankpledge and assize of bread and ale there.¹² He replied that he claimed these rights from his tenants in Bozeat, clearly the property in question, as belonging to his manor of Harrold in co. Bedford,¹³ that his Bozeat tenants attended at the view there, and that that manor had been purchased of one Ralph Morin by John de Grey, who had enfeoffed himself, Roger, of the same. After the death of Lawrence de Hastings, Earl of Pembroke, this quarter-fee in Easton and Bozeat was assigned to his widow Agnes in dower on 12 January 1349, and was still held by Roger de Grey, being then extended at 10s. yearly.¹⁴ Roger de Grey died in 1353, holding in his demesne as of fee 15d. rent from 80 acres of land in Bozeat by knight service as parcel of the manor of Harrold,¹⁵ and the escheator was ordered to deliver the same to Reynold his heir.¹⁶ By the succession of Reynold's son, Reynold de Grey, Lord of Ruthyn, to the Hastings estates, after the death s.p. in 1389 of John de Hastings Earl of Pembroke, the interest of tenant was merged in that of overlord.

One and a half virgates in Easton, which were waste, were returned in the Domesday Survey as belonging to the manor of Higham, held of the king by William Peverel.¹⁷ View of frankpledge was claimed by Henry Earl of Lancaster in Easton as part of his manor of Higham Ferrers (which had descended to him from William Peverel) in 1329, the king's sheriff only making entry at the sheriff's tourn held twice yearly in the hundred.¹⁸ The wood called Hornwood, situated in Easton, was held of the manor of Higham Ferrers in 1544, when it was granted to Edmund Peckham, cofferer of the household, by Henry VIII.¹⁹ It was subsequently held with the manor (q.v.).

View of frankpledge in Strixton from his tenants at Easton and elsewhere was also claimed in 1329 by the Prior of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem.²⁰ A court roll of 1550-1 for Easton Maudit, late of Dingley Preceptory, is in the Public Record Office.²¹

The church of *ST. PETER AND ST. PAUL* consists of chancel, 29 ft. 6 in. by 14 ft. 6 in., with north

¹ Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), cccclx, 68.

² *Hist. MSS. Com. Rep.* Earl of Denbigh's MSS. 280a.

³ *Cal. S.P. Dom.* 1639-40, p. 124; *Cal. Pat.* 15 Chas. I, pt. 10.

⁴ *Cal. S.P. Dom.* 1641-3, p. 30.

⁵ G.E.C. *Baronetage*.

⁶ G.E.C. *Peerage* (1st ed.), vii, 339.

⁷ *Recov. R. Trin.* 4 Jas. II, ro. 221.

⁸ G.E.C. *Peerage* (1st ed.), vii, 339.

⁹ *V.C.H. Northants.* i, 354b.

¹⁰ *Ibid.* 376b.

¹¹ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* vi, 391.

¹² *Plac. de Quo Warr.* (Rec. Com.), 499.

¹³ See *V.C.H. Beds.* iii, 64.

¹⁴ *Cal. Close.* 1340-9, p. 582.

¹⁵ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* x, no. 107.

¹⁶ *Cal. Fine R.* 1347-56, p. 359.

¹⁷ *V.C.H. Northants.* i, 337a.

¹⁸ *Plac. de Quo Warr.* (Rec. Com.), 580.

¹⁹ *Harl. Chart.* 84 C. 26.

²⁰ *Plac. de Quo Warr.* (Rec. Com.), 531.

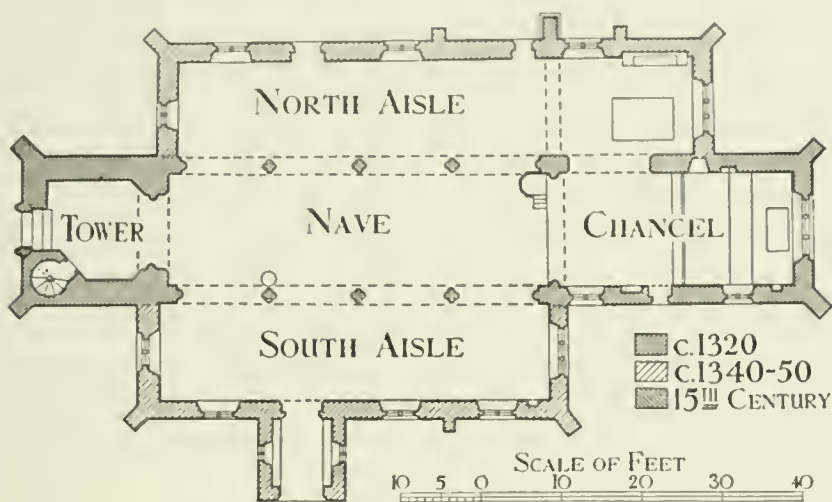
²¹ Court Roll (P.R.O.) 195/18.

chapel; clerestoried nave of four bays, 47 ft. 9 in. by 14 ft. 6 in.; north and south aisles, 12 ft. 3 in. wide; south porch, and west tower, 12 ft. 6 in. square, surmounted by a spire: the width across nave and aisles is 43 ft. 2 in., and the length of the chapel, which is a continuation of the north aisle, is 18 ft. 6 in. All these measurements are internal.

The church was rebuilt in its present form in the 14th century, and though much restored retains most of its original features. The chancel, the nave arcades, and the lower part of the tower are *c.* 1320, but the aisles do not appear to have been completed till rather later (*c.* 1340–50), though no doubt set out when the arcades were rebuilt. The extension of the north aisle into a chapel took place about the same time, or perhaps a little later, after the completion of the chancel, a north

The chancel is open to the chapel at its west end by a pointed arch of two orders, the outer with a recessed chamfer carried down the jambs, the inner wave-moulded order dying out. The early-14th-century chancel arch is of two sunk chamfered orders, with hood-mould towards the nave, the inner order springing from half-round responds with moulded capitals and bases.

The responds of the nave arcades agree with those of the chancel arch, and the piers consist of four clustered shafts, quatrefoil in plan, with moulded capitals and bases. The arches are of two orders, the inner wave-moulded, the outer with a sunk quarter-round. There are three square-headed clerestory windows of two trefoiled lights on each side. The aisle windows also are all square-headed and of two lights, except at the east end where they are of three, but are very much



PLAN OF EASTON MAUDIT CHURCH

window of which it blocked, and the clerestory cannot be much later than *c.* 1350. The tower was not completed until after the addition of the clerestory into which it is bonded at the third stage; the bell-chamber, or upper story, appears to be as late as *c.* 1380–1400. The spire was added in the 15th century, and a west doorway inserted in the tower. In 1832 the spire was partly rebuilt, and there was an extensive restoration of the fabric in 1859–60.

The building throughout is faced with rubble, and, with the exception of the tower, all the walls are plastered internally. The chancel has a modern high-pitched stone-slatted roof without parapets, and the porch is also covered with stone slates. Elsewhere the roofs are leaded¹ and of low pitch behind plain parapets.

The chancel has diagonal buttresses of two stages and an east window of three trefoiled lights with moulded jambs and modern reticulated tracery. In the south wall, at the east end, is a pointed window of two cinquefoiled lights and quatrefoil in the head, and at the west end a tall square-headed window, the sill of which is about 3 ft. above the chamfered plinth and forms a seat inside: the head is modern. The piscina and triple sedilia, which form a single composition of four trefoiled arches, are wholly restored, as is also the priest's doorway. The blocked window in the north wall is a single-light pointed opening with inner trefoiled ogee head, and east of it is a rectangular double aumbry.

restored; the tracery is *c.* 1340. In the usual position at the east end of the south aisle is a cinquefoiled piscina with fluted bowl. The north aisle has a good moulded 17th-century lean-to roof: that of the south aisle, which is apparently contemporary, but plainer, has been restored. The roofs of the chancel and nave are modern.

Externally the aisles have diagonal angle buttresses and a string at sill level all round, but within there is a string only in the south aisle. The 14th-century south doorway retains its ancient oak door, with excellent ironwork: the north doorway is of two continuous recessed chamfered orders and hood-mould. The porch, which is of equal date with the aisle, has a plain-coped gable and square-headed windows of two lights, but is without buttresses; the aisle string is continued round it. Its outer doorway is of two chamfered orders, the inner resting on rough corbels, and in the gable is a much-weathered later tablet, which may have been a sundial.

The chapel has a square-headed east window of three lights and one of two lights on the north side, similar to the others in the aisles, together with a narrow doorway of two continuous hollow-chamfered orders. In order to resist the thrust of the chancel arch after the removal of the original end wall of the aisle, a reversed strainer arch, of a type similar to those at Finedon and Rushden, was inserted at the west end of the chapel, probably early in the 15th century, with a buttress

¹ They were re-leaded in 1926.

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against the outer wall. The arch is of a single moulded order with traceried spandrels.

The tower is of four stages divided by strings and has a chamfered plinth and diagonal buttresses the height of the two lower stories. The vice is in the south-west corner. On the north and south sides the two lower stages are blank, but in the third stage is a cusped circular opening. The inserted west doorway has a four-centred arch in a rectangular frame, with trefoiled spandrels, but the detail is coarse. Above, in the second stage, is a pointed window of two trefoiled lights and quatrefoil in the head. The tower arch is of three chamfered orders, the innermost on half-round responds with moulded capitals and bases, and hood-mould terminating in notch-heads. The bell-chamber windows are of two trefoiled lights with quatrefoil in the head, and the tower terminates in a moulded string and pierced parapet, with tall angle pinnacles from which flying buttresses are thrown to the spire. The spire has plain angles and three sets of gabled openings on its cardinal faces, the lowest of three trefoiled lights with quatrefoil tracery and transom.

There is a scratch dial on the middle buttress of the south aisle.

The 18th-century font consists of a very handsome circular vase-shaped bowl of highly polished fossil stone on a square base.

The wooden pulpit is modern. The sculptured reredos and marble altar-rail date from the restoration of 1860. A good 17th-century communion table with bulbous legs is now at the east end of the south aisle. A few plain oak benches of the same period remain at the west end of the nave. Below the tower is an oak chest with three locks. The painted arms of George III are over the chancel arch.

The north chapel was the burial-place¹ of the Yelverton family from the beginning of the 17th to the end of the 18th century, and contains monuments to Sir Christopher Yelverton (1612) and his wife Mary Catesby² (1611), and to his son Henry (Jan. 1629–30) and his wife Margaret Beale (1625). The former is a large canopied tomb of alabaster standing in the middle of the chapel, with effigies of Sir Christopher and his wife, and on the base the figures of eight daughters and four sons in panels upon the sides, and shields of arms at the ends. The posts support a canopy of two semicircular arches with coffered soffits, urn ornaments at the angles, and shields of arms. The inscription is at the west end. The monument to Henry and his lady stands against the north wall and is an elaborate canopied structure of alabaster, the effigies one above the other, with the figures of four sons and five daughters below. The canopy is supported by bedesmen in black gowns, and is surmounted by figures of Faith, Hope, and Charity. The effigies on both tombs have already been described.³

In the floor are commemorated Sir Christopher Yelverton, 1st baronet (1654), and his wife Ann Twysden; Sir Henry Yelverton, 2nd baronet (1670), and his wife Susanna, Baroness Grey de Ruthin; Charles Lord Grey

de Ruthin (1679); and Henry Viscount Longueville (1704) and his wife Barbara Talbot.

A blue floor-slab at the west end of the chapel marks the burial-place of Thomas Morton, successively Bishop of Chester, Lichfield, and Durham, who died at Easton Maudit 'on the morrow of St. Matthew and was buried on the feast of St. Michael 1659', aged 95. The stone bears a long Latin inscription, in which the bishop is designated 'senex et coelebs'. On the south wall adjoining, below the strainer arch, are Morton's arms as Bishop of Durham, and separate shields of arms of the sees of Chester and Lichfield, all modern.

In the chancel, over the priest's doorway, is an achievement of the arms of Sir Charles Yelverton, Lord Grey of Ruthin (d. 1679).

At the east end of the north aisle hangs a funeral achievement probably erected for Talbot Yelverton, 1st Earl of Sussex, in 1731, consisting of helmet, gauntlets, shield and sword, sustained by an angle iron and cross-bar. The shield is elliptical and appears to have borne the Yelverton arms. Over the achievement is a large square banner, now in a very dilapidated condition, but apparently Yelverton impaling Talbot, and farther west four smaller oblong banners, two of which have the Yelverton arms per pale, and the others the same singly.⁴ There are also four Yelverton hatchments.

The floor of the church was elaborately tiled in 1860. Into the tiles in front of the chancel is worked a modern memorial to three⁵ of the six children of Bishop Percy, preserving the record of a former slab, and two others commemorating William Elwyn, gent. (1619), and Catharine wife of Thomas Remington (1720).

There are five bells, the first, second, and tenor by John Hodson of London 1663, the third dated 1619, and the fourth a recasting by Taylor & Co. in 1893 of a medieval bell inscribed 'Dulcis sisto melis campana vocor Gabriellis'.⁶

The plate now in use consists of a silver cup and paten of 1868. Five pieces of silver-gilt plate, consisting of a cup and paten of 1630, an alms dish of 1661, a flagon of 1672, and an alms dish of 1676, have been on permanent loan at the Victoria and Albert Museum, South Kensington, since July 1927. The cup and paten were the gift of Bishop Morton and bear his initials.⁷

The registers begin in 1539 for baptisms and marriages and in 1561 for burials. The first four volumes, extending to 1812 for baptisms and burials and to 1757 for marriages, are now bound up in one. From 1653 to 1700 the register was very carelessly kept, and there are many gaps. Several perambulations of boundaries are set out. There is a volume of marriages from 1757 to 1812.

The church of Easton in the deanery of Higham was valued in 1291 at £9 6s. 8d.⁸ In 1535 the rectory was returned as appropriated to the abbey of Launds, and the vicarage was valued at £6 10s. 7d.⁹

The advowson was with the manor (q.v.) in the hands of John Mauduit in the reign of King John, when John Mauduit made the presentation.¹⁰ The manor being

¹ There are two vaults, earlier and later, one leading from the other.

² She was the first to be buried here: the last burial was that of the 3rd Earl of Sussex, 1799.

³ *V.C.H. Northants.* i, 415; see also Hartshorne's *Recumb. Mont. Effigies in Northants.* 73, 83. The monuments are described in Pennant's *Journey from*

Chester to London (1782), 319–20.

⁴ *Assoc. Arch. Soc. Reports*, xxxvi, 84, where the achievement is figured and a detailed description given. The banners are all very dilapidated.

⁵ Ann 1760–70, Charlotte 1767–71, and Hester 1772–4.

⁶ North, *Ch. Bells of Northants.* 256, where the inscriptions are given. On the

medieval bell occurred the shield bearing a chevron between three laver-pots. The name of Henry Yelverton is on the tenor.

⁷ Markham, *Ch. Plate of Northants.* 109.

⁸ *Tax. Eccl. (Rec. Com.)*, 40.

⁹ *Valor. Eccl. (Rec. Com.)*, iv, 311.

¹⁰ De Banco R. Hil. 34 Edw. I, m. 13.

next held in shares by the daughters of John Mauduit and their descendants, the presentation seems to have been made at first by these co-parceners presenting together, and later on by them in turn. The presentation was made in 1219 by Sir Robert Morin and Sir Robert de Legh, and by Thomas Sauvage, each being patron of one-third of the church.¹ Sir Robert de Legh was first husband of Flandrina daughter of John Mauduit (see above, p. 13); presumably Morin and Sauvage were husbands of her sisters Agnes and Amice. After this the presentation seems to have been made alternately by the different owners. Agnes the elder sister presented in the reign of Henry III. Ralf de Karun, second husband of Flandrina, next presented John de Karun, after whose death William de Holecote, clerk, was presented by Ralf, cousin and heir of William de Fauconberg, to whom Isabel de Nowers, daughter of Agnes, had sold her part of the advowson. Henry de la Leghe, son of Flandrina by her first husband, made the next presentation,² and the advowson appears to have remained in the hands of the Legh and Wolf representatives of Flandrina, sharing apparently with representatives of the descendants of Agnes, or possibly of the de Preyers to whom Ralf de Fauconberg granted messuages, &c., in Easton Maudit. A grant of an acre of land and of the advowson which John Marreis and his wife Elizabeth made by fine of 24 June 1360 to Sir John de la Lee and his wife Joan³ may have related to the latter owners, through a female heir, since it conveyed a warranty against the heirs of Elizabeth. On the same day William Wolf made a similar grant to Sir John de la Lee and Joan his wife,⁴ who with

Sir Robert de Geddings and his wife Elizabeth (possibly another descendant of Agnes Mauduit) granted to Master William de la Lee and Richard de Ravenser, provost of the church of St. John of Beverley,⁵ an acre of land and the advowson of the church in Michaelmas term of the same year. On 16 November 1363 the advowson and acre of land were conveyed by Richard de Ravenser, provost of Beverley, to trustees,⁶ by whom they were in 1367 granted in frank almoign to the abbey of Launds, Robert Wolf of Easton being a witness to the grant.⁷ Until the Dissolution the advowson and rectory were held by the abbey of Launds. They next appear as the property of the Dean and Chapter of Christ Church, Oxford, by whom the presentation was made in 1562, and until last century were in their hands. The advowson is now held with the manor by the Marquess of Northampton.

It appears from the parish register *CHARITIES* that six cow commons were given by the family or the ancestors of the Earl of Sussex, formerly the proprietors of the estate now belonging to the Marquess of Northampton, for the benefit of six poor widows, and that on an inclosure of the parish the grass of the Green Lanes was assigned in lieu of the cow commons. A sum of £2 10s. is paid annually by the Marquess of Northampton in respect of this charity and is distributed equally among five poor widows.

Distributions of bread to poor women were formerly made from the issues of £1 given by James Preston and a similar sum given in 1736 by Francis Toleson, vicar of Easton Maudit; but these distributions had already ceased by 1830.⁸

HARGRAVE

Hardegrave, Hartgrave (xiv cent.); Hartgras (xvi cent.).

Hargrave lies north of the road from Higham Ferrers to Kimbolton, at a height of about 200 ft.; and is bounded by Huntingdonshire on the east and Bedfordshire on the south. It has an area of 1,429 acres, of which the greater part is now grass. The soil is Oxford Clay: subsoil chiefly chalky clay. Its population, which in 1801 was 158, and 378 in 1871, was 239 in 1931, mainly employed in agriculture, and some shoemaking.

The village, which is scattered and straggling, lies along a road branching north from the eastern end of the Higham Ferrers road. At its southern end is Top Farm, with the Grove to the west of it, and to the north the school, erected in 1857, and the smithy. A little farther north still lies the church, pleasantly situated among trees, with the rectory to the west of it. The rectory house is a late-16th-century building of coursed freestone rubble, with middle projecting porch carried up the full height of its two stories and breaking the eaved roof with a coped gable. The house has been much restored and altered, and only one of the original stone mullioned windows⁹ remains at the back, now covered by a modern addition between two end wings which run westward from the main block. The porch doorway has a plain chamfered four-centred

head,¹⁰ and in one of the lower rooms is a good stone fire-place, with four-centred moulded arch. The principal, or east front is about 60 ft. in length, with red tiled roof, modern wooden dormer windows, and good chimneys with wind-breaks. The end of the north-west wing is of timber and plaster, and there is a modern addition on the north side.

Churchwardens' accounts depict the changes which have taken place in the aspect of this little village. In 1710 sixpence was paid for lopping the willows at the Green, long since vanished; and in 1777 6s. for fencing the Church Spinney, the gates and posts from which were taken to the allotment in Rowley Field in 1802, the year of the inclosure. The Church Spinney, otherwise called Crow Spinney, was on the north side of the 'great moat'. In 1868 the rector added a slip to the churchyard, and the public path down the spinney was by consent diverted to the village street.¹¹

Hargrave Hall, at the south-western angle of the parish, with New England Farm to the east of it, is occupied by Sir Charles Kenneth Murchison, J.P., and the Grange by Francis Isaac Newton.

There is a Methodist chapel, built in 1860.

Before the Conquest *HARGRAVE* was held freely by Ailric. In the Domesday Survey Hargrave was returned in Rothwell Hundred among the lands of William

¹ *Rot. Hug. de Welles* (Cant. & York Soc.), i, 139.

² De Banco R. Hil. 34 Edw. I, m. 13.

³ Feet of F. Northants. 34 Edw. III, file 81, no. 492.

⁴ *Ibid.* no. 493.

⁵ *Ibid.* no. 495.

⁶ *Cal. Close*, 1360-4, p. 552.

⁷ *Cal. Close*, 1364-8, p. 389.

⁸ *Char. Com. Rep.* 1830, xxiv, 130.

⁹ It is of two lights with rounded mullion and jambs.

¹⁰ On the jamb and sill of the window over the doorway are the figures of a sundial; on the jamb are '4' to '10', and on the sill '11' and on the head the motto 'Percont nec imputantur'.

¹¹ *Northants. N. & Q.* iv, 143.

Peverel, of whom Eustace was then holding $\frac{1}{2}$ hide there, worth 68*d*. The soc pertained to *MANORS* Higham Ferrers.¹ In the Northamptonshire Survey $\frac{1}{2}$ hide was held by Harold, and two other holdings were then recorded: 3 small virgates held by Ralf de Foleville, and 3 small virgates held by Richard and Roger de Costentyn,² these having probably been included, in the Domesday Survey, in Raunds, of which manor a manor of Hargrave was a member in the 13th century.³

The fees of William de Ferrers, Earl of Derby, held in 1212 by him in chief of the fee as of the honor of Peverel included an eighth part of a fee in Hargrave held by the Prior of Chicksand,⁴ which with the other Peverel fees was subsequently held as part of the Duchy of Lancaster.⁵

The chief manor, to which the church was attached, seems to have been that held in the 12th century by the Costantyns. The advowson was recovered in 1228 by Richard de Deseburg against the Prior of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem, who claimed as guardian of John Bauzan. Richard proved that the advowson had descended from Roger Costantyn to his son and heir William, who had granted his lands in Hargrave to one Frumbold to hold under him. William's son Roger had died s.p., his heir being his sister Amice, late the wife of Richard Deseburg, who held in her right.⁶ The Deseburgs or Desboroughs, according to an inscription on the family tomb in Desborough Church were lords of Desborough (q.v.), Cransley, Kelmersh, Broughton, and Hargrave, and it is from the presentations to the church that the Desborough owners of this manor can be traced.

According to the Desborough inscription previously quoted, Jane daughter and heir of Richard de Desborough⁷ married John Pulton, and so carried this Hargrave property into the Pulton family⁸ about the end of the 14th century, John Pulton, lord of Desborough, presenting to the church in 1404.⁹ At his death, on 2 February 1481, Thomas Pulton was holding the advowson of the Prior of Chicksand,¹⁰ and his son William who then succeeded him died seised of lands in Hargrave and the advowson held of that priory in 1498, his heir being his son Giles¹¹ who presented in 1502.

The eighth part of a fee in Hargrave held in 1242 by the Priory of Chicksand (Beds.)¹² was presumably the virgate which in 1275 was said to have been given to the priory by John Attemede of Hargrave.¹³ When the priory was surrendered on 22 October

1538 the farm of the manor of Hargrave was returned as £4 3*s*. 4*d*.¹⁴ On 20 April 1553 the manor belonging to the late monastery, together with the Prior's Grange of Hargrave, held of the king as $\frac{1}{40}$ fee, was granted to Anthony Browne, esq., and Richard Weston,¹⁵ by whom these lands were on 12 May following conveyed to Thomas Catlyn¹⁶ and his son and heir Robert to hold of the Crown.¹⁷ Robert died seised of the manor at Raunds, where he was holding Furnells Manor, on 20 March 1599,¹⁸ and was succeeded by his son William, who with his wife Ellen was dealing with the manor by fine in 1616,¹⁹ and with her and Robert his son and heir apparent made certain leases of lands in Hargrave which were the subject of Chancery proceedings in 1623 and 1624.²⁰ This manor probably ceased to be held as a unit about this time.

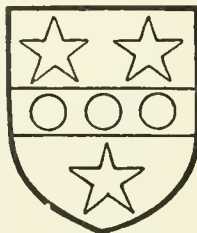
In 1660 a sixth part of the manor was conveyed by fine by George Miles and Rebecca his wife and Ephraim King and Dorothy his wife to Josiah King,²¹ who in the following year with his wife Ann conveyed the same property to Lawrence Joyce.²²

Bridges wrote that the king was then (c. 1720) lord of the waste, but that Lord Bolingbroke and Sir John Langham had certain quit-rents in Hargrave,²³ and held the advowson. By the Inclosure Act of 1802 it was directed that an allotment equal to $\frac{1}{20}$ of the waste lands was to be made to the lord or lords of manors within which they lay,²⁴ but no lord was returned (though Sir William Langham, bart., John Howson, and other principal proprietors were referred to). The owner of the rectory, apparently the lord, was not so described. In 1864 the Rev. Wm. Lake Baker, M.A., appears as patron and incumbent and lord of the manor, but the Rev. Robert Sibley Baker was stated in 1885 to have held the manor and living (which was in the gift of the trustees of the Rev. W. Lake Baker) since 1865. He was lord, patron, and incumbent in 1894²⁵ and died in 1897. Lady Murchison is now lady of the manor, and owner of the advowson.

Katherine de Sawston held an eighth of a fee in Hargrave in 1284 of Edmund of Lancaster²⁶ and in 1297 of his widow.²⁷ This was probably the eighth of a fee which had been held at some time by Walter de Wasynnglegh, subsequently divided equally between Richard Rydel and Isabel de Mollesworth, and was (apparently about 1330) in the hands of Henry de Wivyle,²⁸ but no more is known of it.

In 1189 Richard I confirmed to the abbey of Peterborough a knight's fee in Pytchley, Thorpe, and Hargrave, then held by Richard Engaine,²⁹ and this probably descended with the Engaine fee of Pytchley (q.v.).

In 1291 the priory of Huntingdon had a rent of 3*s*. in Hargrave 'in the parish of Raunds', and the abbey of Thorney one of £4 'in the same'.³⁰



PULTON. *Argent a fesse between three molets sable with three bezants on the fesse.*

¹ *V.C.H. Northants.* i, 338b.

² *Ibid.* i, 376b.

³ *Cal. Close*, 1296-1302, p. 168.

⁴ *Bk. of Fees*, 934.

⁵ *Feud. Aids*, iv, 14; vi, 568; *Hund. R.* (Rec. Com.), ii, 10; *Cal. Inq. p.m.* iii, 423, vii, 63-4; *Plac. de Quo Warr.* (Rec. Com.), 580; *Cal. Close*, 1296-1302, p. 168.

⁶ *Curia Reg. R.* 105, m. 9; *Rot. Hug. de Welles* (Cant. & York Soc.), ii, 151; *Bracton's Note-Bk.* no. 319.

⁷ Presumably Richard 'le Lord': see under advowson.

⁸ *Northants. N. & Q.* iii, 115.

⁹ Bridges, op. cit. ii, 168.

¹⁰ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 22 Edw. IV, no. 14.

¹¹ *Ibid.* (Ser. 2), xiv, 54.

¹² *Bk. of Fees*, 934.

¹³ *Hund. R.* (Rec. Com.), ii, 10.

¹⁴ *Dugdale, Mon.* vi, 950.

¹⁵ *Pat. R.* 7 Edw. VI, pt. 7, no. 6.

¹⁶ In a return of chantry lands, a 'parcel of land which was sold to Mr. Katlyn which belonged to the priory' was included: *Northants. N. & Q.* v, 240, quoting Misc. Bks. Augm. Off., clxviii, fo. 38.

¹⁷ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), cxxiv, 139.

¹⁸ *Ibid.* cclviii, 95.

¹⁹ Feet of F. Northants, Mich. 14 Jas. I.

²⁰ *Chan. Proc.* (Ser. 2), 346, no. 16.

²¹ Feet of F. Northants. Trin. 12 Chas. II.

²² *Ibid.* Trin. 13 Chas. II.

²³ Op. cit. ii, 169.

²⁴ *Priv. Act.* 42 Geo. III, c. 37.

²⁵ Kelly, *Directories*. The Manor House was referred to in 1885 as in the occupation of John Lake Baker, farmer.

²⁶ *Feud. Aids*, iv, 14.

²⁷ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* iii, p. 296.

²⁸ *Feud. Aids*, vi, 569. The interpretation of this list of fees is obscure.

²⁹ *Cal. Chart. R.* 1226-57, p. 21; *ibid.* 1327-41, p. 277.

³⁰ *Tax. Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), 54.

The church of *ALL SAINTS* consists of chancel, 27 ft. 3 in. by 17 ft. 6 in.; clerestoried nave of four bays 40 ft. 6 in. by 16 ft. 9 in.; north and south CHURCH aisles, 6 ft. 6 in. wide; north transept, south porch, and west tower, 8 ft. 9 in. square, with broach spire, all these measurements being internal. The transept projects 4 ft. in front of the north aisle, the eastern bay of which it absorbed when added late in the 15th century, and in the angle it forms with the chancel there is a modern vestry. The width across nave and aisles is 34 ft.

With the exception of the transept the structure, where not rebuilt, belongs to the first half of the 13th century, but new windows were inserted in the aisles and chancel during the 14th and 15th centuries. The clerestory is part of the original fabric.

In 1868-9 an extensive restoration was carried out, which involved the taking down and rebuilding of the tower and spire¹ and the western bay of the nave; the east wall and part of the north wall of the chancel were also rebuilt, several of the windows renewed, and the old porch replaced by one of different design.²

The building is faced throughout with rubble, and internally the walls are plastered. The chancel, nave, and porch have modern tiled eaved roofs, but the aisle roofs are covered with lead;³ there are no parapets except to the transept.

The chancel has a chamfered plinth, diagonal angle buttresses, and a keel-shaped string at sill level, which is taken over the priest's doorway as a label. The east window is a modern one of three cinquefoiled lights and Decorated tracery,⁴ but the two windows in the south wall are 15th-century insertions, of two lights with Perpendicular tracery; a single window of the same type in the north wall is modern. The sill of the south-eastern window is lowered to form a seat, but no other ancient ritual arrangements remain. The 13th-century priest's doorway has an unmoulded outer order on nook-shafts with moulded capitals and bases, and a chamfered inner order continued to the ground: the eastern shaft is gone. Below the western window is a rectangular low-side opening, the head of which, though below the 13th-century string, is a transom, perhaps belonging to a former taller window. Both the priest's doorway and low-side window are now blocked and not seen within. The doorway to the modern vestry in the north wall formerly opened to a priest's room or sacristy, and is of early-14th-century date, of two continuous orders, the outer with a sunk chamfer, the inner wave-moulded. There is also in the north wall a plain tomb recess with two-centred chamfered arch, and in the north-west angle a squint from the transept. The chancel arch is of two chamfered orders, without hood-mould, springing from half-round responds with moulded capitals, with an outer shaft on the west side grouping with the half-round responds of the nave arcades.

The arches of the arcades are of two chamfered orders springing from piers with moulded bell-shaped capitals, the westernmost pier on each side being circular

and the others octagonal: at the west end the responds are half-octagons. The details of the capitals vary.

The east window of the south aisle is a single lancet, and that in the south wall west of the porch a pointed opening of two lights with forked mullion. The west wall is blank. East of the porch are a late-15th-century four-centred window of three cinquefoiled lights, and a much restored square-headed opening of three trefoiled lights with modern tracery.⁵ The south doorway is very good early-13th-century work, with pointed arch of three orders, the inner with continuous chamfer, the two outer on nook-shafts with moulded capitals and bases, with a shorter third shaft set in the angle behind. The middle order has a double row of dog-tooth ornament, and the outer is a late form of chevron moulding; the label has moulded corbel-like terminations.

The contemporary north doorway is of two chamfered orders, the inner continuous and the outer on shafts with moulded capitals and bases. West of the doorway is a four-centred window of three cinquefoiled lights, and east of it a square-headed two-light window, but the west wall is blank. A 15th-century arch of two chamfered orders divides the aisle from the transept which, occupying the eastern bay, is internally 11 ft. wide by 10 ft. 4 in. deep. It has a low-pitched gabled roof, and restored four-centred north window of three trefoiled lights with Perpendicular tracery.⁶ In the east wall is a wide, flat arched recess. The 13th-century trefoil-headed piscina recess of the aisle altar remains in the south-east angle of the transept, but the bowl has gone. The transept was formerly inclosed by parclose screens.⁷

The clerestory has four quatrefoil windows on each side, the easternmost within a circular label and with roundels at the terminations of the foils,⁸ the others plain and set directly in the rubble walling.

The tower, as rebuilt, preserves its original architectural features, though containing much new masonry and restored detail. It is of three stages marked by strings, with double angle buttresses and a tall lancet on the west in the lofty lower stage. The upper story is slightly set back and the bell-chamber windows are of two lancet lights with circular dividing shafts on the north and south, and rectangular chamfered mullions east and west, the arches springing at the sides from moulded corbels; the space within the enclosing arch is pierced. In the middle stage, on the west side only, is a small trefoil opening,⁹ but the two lower stages north and south are blank. In the south-east angle is a circular projecting staircase with conical roof of coursed stone above a band of nail-head ornament. The lofty tower arch is of two chamfered orders, the inner on moulded corbels, the outer continuous. The spire is of only slightly later date than the tower and is of equal height;¹⁰ it has three sets of spire lights, the two lower on the cardinal faces, and the upper alternating.

The early-13th-century font consists of a plain octagonal bowl slightly chamfered at the top, with carved heads on two of its faces. It stands on a plain

¹ In 1849 the tower was stated to lean nearly 2 ft. to the west, while the spire was straight: *Chs. Archd. N'ton.* 36. The church was reopened, after restoration, on 29 October 1870.

² The former porch was described as 'old, but not as old as the (south) doorway' (ibid. 36). The new porch is in memory of William Lake Baker (d. 1865), rector for forty-seven years. It has a stone front and

open timbered sides on low stone walls.

³ Before the restoration all the roofs, except that of the porch, were leaded (ibid. 36).

⁴ In 1849 the window was described as 'merely a square aperture' (ibid. 36).

⁵ Before the restoration this was a plain square-headed opening, without mullions or tracery.

⁶ Originally the window was tran-

somed, the lower lights being trefoiled and the upper cinquefoiled: *Chs. Archd. N'ton.* 36.

⁷ Ibid. 39.

⁸ That on the north side is wholly restored.

⁹ This and the lancet window below are wholly renewed.

¹⁰ Height of tower 45 ft., whole height to top of spire 90 ft.: *Chs. Archd. N'ton.* 36.

A HISTORY OF NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

square stone pillar,¹ chamfered at the angles, and with chamfered plinth, which is apparently no part of the original font. A plain octagonal stone font bowl recently found is in the rectory garden.

The wooden pulpit is modern.

There is a much-restored 15th-century chancel screen, with four openings on each side of the doorway and two large panels below. The altar is a restored Jacobean communion table with eight turned legs.

An oak poor-box dated 1597 has three inscriptions cut on the post—'God save the Queen', 'Pray for the good estate of all well-doers', and the name of the donor, Thomas Mahew.

In the chancel is a 17th-century oak chest with three locks. The royal arms, dated 1776, are over the north doorway.²

There is a fair amount of late-15th-century seating in the nave and north aisle, with panelled fronts and ends, and moulded rails.

Traces of wall paintings remain over the north arcade, apparently the figures of patriarchs.³

A slab of Weldon stone, on which is roughly scratched a 'Nine Mens Morris' diagram, was found in the west wall of the north aisle in 1868; it is now in the Northampton Museum.⁴

There are four bells, the treble dated 1603, the second 1748, the third by Tobie Norris of Stamford 1675, and the tenor a 16th-century bell inscribed 'S. Antonie', cast at Leicester by Thomas Newcombe (1560–80).⁵

The plate consists of a silver cup and cover paten of 1618, a pewter flagon, and a pewter bread-holder by Thomas King 1675.⁶

The registers before 1812 are as follows: (i) baptisms, marriages, and burials 1572–1682; (ii) baptisms and burials 1683–1756, marriages 1683–1754; (iii) baptisms and burials 1756–1813; (iv) marriages 1755–1812.⁷

In the churchyard, against the north aisle wall, is a large stone coffin⁸ with coped lid, found at Middle Lound in 1893.⁹

The advowson having been subject
ADVOUSON to various grants made for lives by owners of the rectory manor has furnished matter for dispute on more than one occasion.

According to Bridges, John son of Richard de Desborough presented in 1327 and again in 1328, as John called 'le Lord' of Desborough. The presentation was made in 1349 by Margaret widow of John Lord of Desborough.¹⁰ On 26 January 1384 Richard le Lord of Desborough, son and heir of Margaret, made a grant to Richard Mayhew¹¹ of the first presentation to the church of Hargrave, but when John Mayhew, clerk,¹² was presented by Richard Mayhew of Desborough and John, Bishop of Lincoln, their right to present was disputed in 1390 by John Fossebrook and Margaret his wife, who claimed that Richard Lord,

son and heir of Margaret, had on 6 January 1384 granted to them all his lands, &c., in Hargrave, with the advowson of the church, for the rent of a red rose. The bishop and Richard Mayhew maintained that the right to make the grant in 1384 had not been in Richard Lord's hands as his mother was then still living.¹³ The advowson was held by the Pultons with the manor (q.v.). It was in 1605 conveyed by William Bird and his wife Agnes to William Catlyn,¹⁴ in whose hands it was in 1623.¹⁵ William Catlyn was the owner when, on 23 June 1660, a petition was presented for securing tithes in Hargrave as a sequestered living.¹⁶ It was held in 1674 by Elizabeth Barker; in 1684 by John Sprigg; in 1726 by Edward Cuthbert; in 1745 by William Bunbury and Mary Bunbury, spinster; and in 1797 by William Fonnereau, clerk,¹⁷ who at the Inclosure Act of 1802 was still holding it, the Rev. Charles Fonnereau being rector. It was directed by this Act that an allotment should be made in lieu of tithes.¹⁸ John Fox was holding the advowson in 1805. In 1864 and subsequently it was held by the incumbent, who was also lord of the manor. At the death of the Rev. R. S. Baker in 1897 it was still so held. It then came into the possession of Miss Elizabeth F. Baker, who was holding in 1910, and now Lady Murchison is patron and lady of the manor.

The church was taxed in 1291 at £8 13s. 4d.¹⁹ In 1535 the *Valor Ecclesiasticus* returned the value of the rectory as £14 3s. 11d., of which 6s. 8d. was deducted for pension to the prior of Huntingdon, and 10s. 7d. for proxies and synodals.²⁰

Lands and rents given by divers persons for the maintenance of obits, &c., in Hargrave, worth 10s. were recorded at the suppression of the chantries.²¹

By an Award of the Inclosure Commissioners dated 22 May 1804 land was allotted for the benefit of the herdsman of Hargrave. Land was also allotted to the churchwardens in lieu of certain other lands the rents of which had been applied from time immemorial to the repair and services of the parish church. There has been no herdsman since the inclosure, when his duties came to an end, and the rent from the allotments was applied for many years for churchwarden purposes. An Order dated 31 January 1902 made by the Charity Commissioners directed that 11 a. 1 r. 29 p. of the land allotted should form the endowment of the Ecclesiastical Charity under the administration of the churchwardens, and the remaining land of 6 a. 0 r. 27 p. together with the herdsman's cottage should form the endowment of the Non-ecclesiastical Charity, to be administered by two trustees appointed by the parish council. The land belonging to the Ecclesiastical Charity is let for £7 7s. 6d. yearly, which is applied towards church expenses. The land and cottage belonging to the Non-ecclesiastical Charity produces £9 yearly.

¹ The pillar is 3 ft. 5 in. in height including the plinth, and 20½ in. square. Height from floor to top of bowl 4 ft. 9 in.

² In 1849 they were on top of a screen below the tower arch: *Chs. Archd. N'ton* 39.

³ *Assoc. Arch. Soc. Reports*, viii, p. cxiii.

⁴ *Ibid.* xi, 132, where it is figured. The slab is 23½ in. by 12½ in., and 4 in. thick.

⁵ North, *Ch. Bells of Northants.* 290, where the inscriptions are given. The tenor bears an older rebus shield, but the lettering is Newcombe's.

⁶ Markham, *Ch. Plate of Northants.* 144. There is also a pewter alms dish: a

brass alms basin was purchased when the church was restored.

⁷ The second volume contains the names of two persons 'touched by His Majesty to the intent to be healed of the disease called the King's Evil', February 1683: it has also a long list of briefs.

⁸ It is possibly Roman: *V.C.H. Northants.* i, 218.

⁹ *Assoc. Arch. Soc. Reports*, xxii, 83. It is a monolith 6 ft. 10 in. long, 2 ft. 2 in. wide and 1 ft. 10 in. high: the lid is 7 in. thick sloping to 4 in.

¹⁰ *Cal. Pat.* 1313–17, pp. 684, 695.

¹¹ *Cal. Close*, 1385–9, p. 148.

¹² Thomas Mayhew, chaplain of Hargrave, was pardoned for the death of Robert Basse of Dene in 1377: *Cal. Pat.* 1377–81, p. 393.

¹³ De Banco R. Mich. 14 Ric. II, m. 326.

¹⁴ Feet of F. Northants. Mich. 3 Jas. I.

¹⁵ *Inst. Bks.* (P.R.O.).

¹⁶ *Hist. MSS. Com. Rep.* vii, 105a.

¹⁷ *Ibid.* vii, 105a.

¹⁸ *Priv. Act.* 42 Geo. III, c. 37.

¹⁹ *Tax. Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), 406.

²⁰ *Op. cit.* (Rec. Com.), iv, 313.

²¹ Chantry Certif. xxxv, 17.

HIGHAM FERRERS HUNDRED

IRCHESTER

Irencestre, Hirecestre (xi cent.); Yrencestre (xii cent.); Ircestre (xiii cent.); Iringchester (xiv cent.); Erncestre, Archester (xvi cent.); Erchester (xvii cent.).

The parish of Irchester lies in the south-east of Higham Hundred on the borders of Bedfordshire, where it is bounded by Podington. The navigable River Nene forms its northern boundary. It covers an area of 2,788 acres, divided between arable land, the chief crops being cereals, and permanent grass, with some 40 acres of woods and plantations. The upper soil is fertile and of a mixed character, the subsoil mainly Oolite, with a streak of Cornbrash at Knuston, but along the banks of the Nene at and south of Chester Upper Lias. The parish stands at a height of 200 ft., rising on the Bedfordshire border to 300 ft. Knuston was inclosed in 1769, Irchester proper in 1773.¹ In 1931 the population numbered 2,503 persons.

The highroad from Wellingborough to London enters Irchester on the north-west and leads southwards into Wollaston. Two branches of the L.M.S. railway intersect the parish, the Wymington Loop Line on which is Irchester station half a mile east of the village, and the Northampton and Peterborough branch running to Wellingborough station on the north-west boundary of Chester. In this direction lies the hamlet of Little Chester. Traces of Roman occupation have been found close to the River Nene about half a mile from the village, and at Chester House,² a 16th-century mansion, once the seat of the Ekens family.³ A few prehistoric and Anglo-Saxon remains have also been discovered.⁴

The old rectory house stands on the south side of the church and, though modernized, incorporates some portions of a 14th-century building: in its north gable is a blocked pointed window with ogee hood-mould. The rectorial tithe barn still stands to the south of the church, but is newly roofed with thatch. It is about 70 ft. long by 22 ft. 6 in. wide inside with buttressed stone walls, but is otherwise without architectural features.

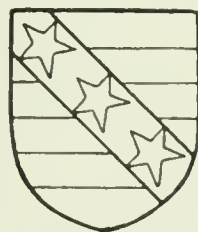
The Methodists have two chapels, one, opened at Easter 1870, replacing an earlier building, and the other erected in 1877.

About a mile north-east of the village is the hamlet of Knuston where there are now few buildings besides Knuston Hall, a large square mansion on rising ground in the centre of a well-wooded park.

Ditchford Bridge, crossing the Nene near the boundary of the parish, is medieval, probably dating from the 14th century. It has six semicircular arches over the stream with sharp cutwaters; on the parapet facing upstream are carved the crossed keys of Peterborough, and on the opposite side is a St. Catherine's wheel.

The overlordship of 1 hide and 3 virgates of socland in *IRCHESTER* which belonged to William Peverel's manor of Higham Ferrers in 1086⁵ *MANORS* descended with Higham Ferrers (q.v.), and in 1769 the king was lord of the manor of Irchester in right of the Duchy of Lancaster.⁶

'A Frenchman' was sub-tenant here of William Peverel at the Survey. Goscelin of Irchester held land of the manor of Higham Ferrers from 1164 to 1179,⁷ but by 1181 this had descended to Richard of Irchester, tenant until 1200⁸ and probably later.⁹ Peter son of Peter of Irchester held land here in 1231,¹⁰ and in 1242 a later Richard of Irchester was the Earl Ferrers's tenant for one-eighth of a knight's fee in the parish.¹¹ Richard his son, on whom he made a settlement in 1249,¹² settled the manor in trust for his brother William on William de Clifford,¹³ rector of Irchester from 1268 and in later years Bishop of Emlý.¹⁴ In 1275 Amy, wife of William de Polebrook, with her husband sued William de Clifford for the manor as heir of her brother William of Irchester. Richard, however, was still alive and in accordance with the Dictum of Kenilworth was allowed to redeem his inheritance, which he settled afresh on William de Clifford and his brother Richard.¹⁵ A later suit brought by William and Amy against Richard of Irchester himself was equally unsuccessful,¹⁶ and in 1284 William de Clifford held a quarter of a knight's fee in Irchester,¹⁷ which he and his brother Richard transferred to Thomas de Morton five years later,¹⁸ possibly in trust for Margery, wife of Sir Nicholas de Crioll, who was tenant in 1298 and 1316.¹⁹ She was a widow in 1313 when Richard son and heir of Sir John de Clifford surrendered to her and her co-heirs Elizabeth, wife of Sir John Pabenhām the elder, and Margery Hereward, daughter and heir of Margaret, late the wife of Sir Robert Hereward, all his right to lands in Irchester and neighbouring parishes.²⁰ Possibly she or Margery Hereward afterwards married Sir William Lovel whom, with his wife Margery, Elizabeth de Pabenhām sued in 1342 for a moiety of the manor of Irchester as her inheritance.²¹ This she recovered and settled upon her son Thomas, on whose death in 1345 the manor was taken into the king's hands during the minority of his heir, Elizabeth's petition for its restoration to herself being rejected.²² Her grandson Laurence de Pabenhām was seised of her inheritance in Irchester at his death in 1399.²³ His son John, then aged 9, survived his father only eight years.



PABENHAM. *Barry azur and argent a bend gules with three molets argent thereon.*

¹ Acts Priv. and Local, 9 Geo. III, c. 73;

² Geo. III, c. p. 15.

³ *I.C.H. Northants.* i, 178-84.

⁴ Whellan, *Hist. Northants.* 1919-20.

⁵ *I.C.H. Northants.* i, 155, 183, 239.

⁶ *Ibid.* i, 336b.

⁷ Acts Priv. and Local, 9 Geo. III, c.

⁸ *Pipe R. 10 Hen. II* (*Pipe R. Soc.*), 95 et seq.

⁹ *Ibid.* 27 *Hen. II*, 66; *ibid.* 2 *John*, 56.

¹⁰ *Cur. Reg. R.* ii, 252.

¹¹ *Bracton's Note-Book*, 483.

¹² *Bk. of Fees*, ii, 933, 945.

¹³ Feet of F. Northants., file 12, no. 247.

¹⁴ *Rot. Ric. Gravesend* (Cant. & York Soc.), 109.

¹⁵ *Cal. Papal Letters*, i, 494, 509.

¹⁶ *Coram Rege R.* 18 m. 30 d.; Feet of F. Northants., file 51, no. 29.

¹⁷ *Coram Rege R.* 20, m. 1.

¹⁸ *Feud. Aids*, iv, 14.

¹⁹ Feet of F. case 175, file 56, no. 260.

²⁰ *Chan. Inq. p.m. Edw. I*, file 81; *Feud. Aids*, iv, 29.

²¹ *Coram Rege R.* 214, m. 67.

²² *Assize R.* 1433, m. 6 d, m. 18, m. 32 d; *Cal. Close*, 1341-3, p. 685. Bridges

(*Northants.* ii, 179) says that Sir William Lovel held the eighth of a knight's fee in Irchester in 1346, and the return of 1428 mentions him as late tenant here to that extent: *Feud. Aids*, iv, 45. In 1384 Sir John, in 1385 Sir Ralph Lovel were amongst the free tenants in default of the Duchy of Lancaster in Irchester: Ct. R. (Duchy of Lanc.), bdle. 105, nos. 1497, 1498.

²³ *Chan. Inq. Misc.*, file 155, no. 2; *Chan. Inq. p.m. Edw. III*, file 78, no. 1.

²⁴ *Chan. Inq. p.m. Ric. II*, file 106, no 37.

A HISTORY OF NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

One moiety of the Pabenhams manor in Irchester came to his step-sister Katharine, wife of Sir Thomas Aylsbury¹ who died in 1418.² From Katherine, who was still seised in 1428,³ this descended to Laurence, her son by her second husband Sir John Cheyne of Fen Ditton,⁴ and from Laurence to his brother John.⁵ This younger Sir John Cheyne was succeeded in 1489 by his son Thomas⁶ whose estates passed at his death in 1514 to his only child Elizabeth whom he had betrothed to Thomas son and heir of Sir Nicholas Vaux.⁷ The son of this marriage, William second Lord Vaux of Harrowden, his mother's heir at her death in 1556,⁸ sold Irchester in or before 1593 to Sir Thomas Cecil,⁹ and he in 1596 sold the manor to John Wiseman,¹⁰ who within two years transferred his rights here to Thomas Bletsoe,¹¹ a freeholder of the Duchy of Lancaster in this parish in 1611.¹² A grant of his great-grandmother's inheritance, which included the manor of Irchester, was made to Edward, grandson and heir of the second William Lord Vaux of Harrowden by James I in 1613.¹³

The other moiety of the Pabenhams manor in Irchester came on John de Pabenhams's death to his younger sister Eleanor, wife of John Tyringham.¹⁴ She was dead in 1420,¹⁵ and in 1428 it was held by Alice Chamber,¹⁶ probably daughter of Eleanor. Sir Robert Fitz Simond, whose mother, Mary Chamber,¹⁷ was presumably Alice's daughter, died seised of this moiety in 1473 when his heir was his daughter Joan wife of Robert Tymperley and subsequently wife of Henry Wentworth, by whom she had a son Nicholas.¹⁸

Two and a half virgates in Irchester which Siward had held freely belonged in 1086 to the Count of Mortain, and in the reign of Henry I to the fee of Wahill.¹⁹ A mesne lordship over this, or part of this fee belonged to the family of Grey of Ruthyn in the 14th and 15th centuries and lasted until 1495 when lands in Irchester were held of George Earl of Kent, Lord Grey of Ruthyn.²⁰

Robert, the Count of Mortain's tenant here, had been succeeded in the following century by Nicholas le Sauvage.²¹ In the 13th and 14th centuries members of this family held land in Irchester,²² part of which had passed to Thomas de Pabenhams before 1346.²³ It may be identical with land held of the Earl of Kent by George Ingleton at his death in 1495.²⁴ This descended through his son Robert to his grand-daughter Joan who, as the widow of George Tyrrell, settled it on her son George in 1550. In 1558 this George Tyrrell owned

a manor (so called) in Irchester which he sold seven years later to Richard Bletsoe who held it of the Duchy of Lancaster in 1591²⁵ and 1610.²⁶ In 1591 Richard also owned a manor in Irchester called *KNOLES* which he had acquired from William Pierce and his wife Eleanor and John Bowes in 1589,²⁷ but which is otherwise unrecorded.

KNUSTON

Cnuteston (xi cent.); Knoston (xii cent.); Cnoston (xiii cent.); Knuston (xviii cent.).

One hide and 3 virgates in Knuston which Uluiet held freely in King Edward's time belonged in 1086 to the fee of Gunfrid de Cioches.²⁸ The overlordship descended with the fee of Chokes, Robert the advocate of Betun accounting in 1235 for one knight's fee in Knuston and Billing of the fee of Chokes.²⁹ This part of Knuston still belonged to the honor of Chokes in 1252³⁰ and 1274,³¹ and in 1330 was found to be exempt from the jurisdiction of the Earl of Lancaster in Higham Hundred.³² In 1346 and 1428, however, this fee was said to be held of the honor of Clare.³³

The tenant of the Chokes fee in Knuston in 1086 was Winemar,³⁴ and the mesne lordship descended as Preston Deanery (q.v.), but two-thirds of a fee were held here in 1242 by Walter de Knoston.³⁵ In 1232 land in this hamlet passed from Margery, widow of Nicholas de Normanvill, to John de Hulcote³⁶ who was sub-tenant of Gilbert de Preston in Holcot, Knuston, and Haddon in 1274,³⁷ in which year the service of Ralph de Normanville for a fee in Knuston was assigned to Alice, widow of Gilbert de Preston, in dower.³⁸

The first mention of Knuston as a manor is in 1325 when Ralph de Normanvill settled it on his son Ralph and his wife Sarra,³⁹ and Ralph was seised in 1329.⁴⁰ John de Normanvill in 1392 and 1394 settled Knuston in trust on his brother John Wolf.⁴¹ By 1428 the half-fee, 'formerly of Hugh Croft',⁴² was held in equal portions by the Lady Elizabeth Kingsman, John Bedell, Henry Alcote, John Sweetbone, senior, John Sweetbone, junior, William Archbold,⁴³ and Simon Southend.⁴⁴ A settlement of the manor of Knuston on William Sweetbone and his wife Joan was made in 1498,⁴⁵ but it came afterwards into the possession of Sir Robert Brudenell who died seised in 1531. His younger son Anthony, to whom he had left Knuston,⁴⁶ parted with his interest here in the following year,⁴⁷ and in 1542

¹ Chan. Inq. p.m. Hen. IV, file 59, no. 61.

² Ibid. Hen. V, file 33, no. 35.

³ *Feud. Aids*, iv, 45.

⁴ *Visit. of Cambs.* (Harl. Soc.), 118.

⁵ Add. Chart. 7569.

⁶ Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), v, 122.

⁷ Ibid. xxix, 22.

⁸ Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), cvii, 55.

⁹ P.C.C. Drake, 86.

¹⁰ Feet of F. Northants. Trin. 38 Eliz.

¹¹ Ibid. East. 40 Eliz.

¹² Rentals and Surv. (P.R.O.), portf. 13, no. 34.

¹³ Pat. 10 Jas. I, pt. 15; 11 Jas. I, pt. 6.

¹⁴ Chan. Inq. p.m. Hen. IV, file 59, no. 61.

¹⁵ Ibid. Hen. V, file 57, no. 37.

¹⁶ *Feud. Aids*, iv, 45.

¹⁷ Morant, *Essex*, i, 302-3.

¹⁸ Chan. Inq. p.m. Edw. IV, file 45, no. 33.

¹⁹ *V.C.H. Northants.* i, 328a, 377a. They were probably amongst the nineteen virgates in Irchester, declared in 1318 to be part of the ancient demesne of the Crown:

Chan. Inq. Misc. file 8, no. 9.

²⁰ Chan. Inq. p.m. Edw. III, file 78, no. 1 (Ser. 2), x.

²¹ *V.C.H. Northants.* i, 328, 377a.

²² Feet of F. Northants., file 21, no. 181; *Bracton's Note-Book*, 483; Chan. Inq. p.m. Edw. III, file 78, no. 1; Ct. R. (Duchy of Lanc.), bdle. 105, nos. 1497, 1498.

²³ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* viii, no. 598.

²⁴ Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), x, 1.

²⁵ Misc. Bks. (Duchy of Lanc.), 117, fo. 137.

²⁶ Rentals and Surv. (P.R.O.), portf. 13, no. 34.

²⁷ Misc. Bks. (Duchy of Lanc.), 117, fo. 137. ²⁸ *V.C.H. Northants.* i, 348a.

²⁹ *Bk. of Fees*, i, 499.

³⁰ Chan. Inq. Misc. file 7, no. 3.

³¹ Chan. Inq. p.m. Edw. I, file 5, no. 9.

³² *Plac. de Quo Warr.* (Rec. Com.), 580.

³³ Bridges, *Northants.* ii, 182; *Feud. Aids*, iv, 45.

³⁴ *V.C.H. Northants.* i, 348a.

³⁵ *Bk. of Fees*, 939. Possibly Walter held by lease from Gilbert de Preston, who

had leased his manor of Little Billing in 1235: *Cal. Pat. R.* 1232-47, p. 147.

³⁶ Feet of F. Northants., file 23, no. 246.

³⁷ Chan. Inq. p.m. Edw. I, file 5, no. 9.

³⁸ *Cal. Close*, 1272-9, p. 222.

³⁹ In 1328 Sir Ralph de Normanvill with his sons Ralph and Geoffrey amongst others, broke into Sir William Lovel's close at Irchester: *Cal. Pat.* 1327-30, pp. 294-5.

⁴⁰ Feet of F. Div. Co. 6, file 33, no. 261.

⁴¹ Close, 15 Ric. II, m. 16 d; 18 Ric. II, m. 32 d.

⁴² He is said to have held in 1346 of Laurence de Preston: Bridges, *Northants.* ii, 182.

⁴³ Nicholas Archbold was one of John de Normanvill's trustees: *Cal. Close*, 1389-92, p. 537.

⁴⁴ *Feud. Aids*, iv, 45.

⁴⁵ Feet of F. Northants. case 179, file 98, no. 51.

⁴⁶ Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), lii, 64.

⁴⁷ Feet of F. Div. Co. Trin. 24 Hen. VIII.

Thomas Brudenell, Sir Robert's elder son, sold the manor in two moieties.¹ Thomas Page, junior, who acquired one moiety, was succeeded by John Page who owned the other also in 1591.² No more is heard of the manor, but a considerable estate in Knuston, comprising the North Hall with 4 virgates of land, the Borough Farm, and certain closes, was acquired by William Payne and descended at his death in 1624 to his niece Sybil, wife of Sir Christopher Yelverton,³ and presumably passed with Podington (Beds.) to the family of Orlebar.⁴

One hide and 1½ virgates in Knuston which belonged to William Peverel's manor at the Survey descended with Higham Ferrers (q.v.),⁵ the last mention of its overlordship occurring in 1531 when Knuston was held of the king by knight service as of his Castle of Higham Ferrers,⁶ after which it was probably absorbed into the manor of Irchester.

When the open fields and commons of Knuston were inclosed in 1769, allotments were made in the first place to the King as lord of the manor of Irchester, and the patron and vicar of the parish church, and afterwards to eleven other landowners, some of whom seem from their names, such as Bletsoe and Mason, to have belonged to families long resident in the neighbourhood.⁷ The present owner of the hamlet and of Knuston Hall is Charles Arthur Kersey Green, esq.

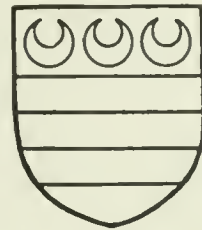
CHESTER-ON-THE-WATER

Cestre, Parva Cestre (xiii cent.); Chestrebethewatre, Littlechestre by the Watre (xiv cent.).

The first mention of the overlordship of *LITTLE CHESTER* occurs in 1236 when it was appurtenant to the manor of Higham Ferrers.⁸ From that year until 1428 it was held of the lords of Higham Ferrers,⁹ after which their overlordship appears to have lapsed. A mesne lordship here belonged to Brian de Lisle in 1232,¹⁰ and to Walter de Lisle from that year until 1253.¹¹ At the close of the century and until 1327 this was held by William de Echingham,¹² who had married the eventual co-heir of Brian de Lisle.¹³

The early tenants of Little Chester belonged to the family of de Nowers. Emery de Nowers held of the de Lisle mesne lords in 1232 and 1253.¹⁴ William de Nowers held 1/20 of a fee of Edmund the king's brother¹⁵ in 1284.¹⁶ From his son Emery Little Chester descended in 1308 to his son John,¹⁷ who was seised until his death in 1327. He was succeeded by his son of the same name,¹⁸ who with his wife Maud sold the contingent reversion of the manor to the king in 1369.¹⁹ They died without issue, and John of Gaunt who had

entered on the estate was sued in 1398 by John Stokes, nephew and heir of one of the trustees of John de Nowers. Though judgement was given in favour of the duke,²⁰ the fortieth part of a knight's fee in Little Chester which had formerly belonged to Maud de Nowers was held by Thomas Stokes in 1428.²¹ Thomas Stokes granted it to Thomas Singilton and his wife Agnes in 1429.²² In 1466 it was owned by Henry Petit and his wife Agnes; in 1494 by William Hampden and his wife Audrey, in both years being the inheritance of the wife.²³ William Coope had bought it in 1494 and, with his wife Joan, sold it in 1511 to Thomas and William Wigston and others;²⁴



NOWERS. Argent two bars gules with three crescents gules in the chief.

and the next year licence was granted to William Wigston of Leicester, junior, and Thomas Wigston, clerk, to found a perpetual chantry of two chaplains in the collegiate church of Newark, Leicester.²⁵ The manor of Little Chester was amongst the temporalities of the Newark college in 1535 and remained in the Crown until in 1616 James I sold it to John Godbould and Thomas Ekins.²⁶ Thomas held alone in 1633,²⁷ and in 1705 the manor was sold by Susan Ekins, widow, and a later Thomas Ekins to John Ekins,²⁸ possibly the deputy steward of Higham Ferrers Manor of that name twenty years before.²⁹ In the early part of the 18th century Captain Thomas Ekins was lord of the manor of Little Chester,³⁰ and it passed from Timothy Stonehouse Vigor and his wife Charlotte Oliver to Francis Dickens (see advowson) in 1798.³¹

A mill on the land of William Peverel in 1086 was then claimed by the king.³² In 1282 Edmund the king's brother bought of Henry le Scot of Abbots Leigh³³ the 'Dickford Mulnes', possibly the two water-mills in Irchester of which he died seised in 1298.³⁴ There was one mill on the Vaux manor in 1595.³⁵ Knuston had two mills at the Survey,³⁶ Little Chester three in 1309.³⁷ Dovecotes are mentioned amongst the appurtenances of all three manors from the 14th to the 17th century.³⁸ The fishing of the River Nene which belonged, at least in part, to Little Chester in 1327 and 1566,³⁹ in the reign of Charles I was found to be within the manor of Irchester and to extend from Ditchford Mills to Wellingborough Bridge.⁴⁰

Free warren in his demesne lands of Knuston and Irchester was granted to William de Ferrers in 1248, in his demesne lands of Irchester to William Lovel in

¹ Feet of F. Div. Co. Hil. and East. 33 Hen. VIII.

² Misc. Bks. (Duchy of Lanc.), 117, fol. 137b.

³ Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), dclv, 94; ccccvii, 104.

⁴ See *V.C.H. Beds.* iii, 82.

⁵ *V.C.H. Northants.* i, 336b; *Bk. of Fees*, i, 602; Chan. Inq. p.m. Edw. III, file 6, m. 24.

⁶ Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), lii, 64.

⁷ Act Priv. and Loc. 9 Geo. III, c. 73.

⁸ *Bk. of Fees*, i, 602.

⁹ Ibid. ii, 933; *Feud. Aids*, iv, 14, 46;

Chan. Inq. p.m. Edw. I, file 81; Inq. ad q. d., file 117, no. 16.

¹⁰ Feet of F. Div. Co., file 9, no. 94.

¹¹ Ibid. Northants., file 38, no. 616.

¹² Chan. Inq. p.m. Edw. I, file 81; Edw. III, file 10, no. 7; Edw. III, file 4, no. 4.

¹³ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* xxx, 145.

¹⁴ Feet of F. Div. Co., file 9, no. 94; Northants., file 38, no. 616.

¹⁵ Edmund was probably guardian of the Lisle heir.

¹⁶ Chan. Inq. p.m. Edw. I, file 81.

¹⁷ Ibid. Edw. II, file 10, no. 7.

¹⁸ *Feud. Aids*, v, 29; Chan. Inq. p.m. Edw. III, file 4, no. 4.

¹⁹ Feet of F. Div. Co., file 48, no. 693; *Cal. Pat.* 1367-70, p. 242.

²⁰ De Banco R. 551, m. 341.

²¹ *Feud. Aids*, iv, 46.

²² *Cal. Close*, 1429-35, p. 32.

²³ Feet of F. Div. Co., file 74, no. 38; Northants., file 97, no. 35.

²⁴ Ibid. III, 2 Hen. VIII.

²⁵ Nichols, *Leic.* i, pt. 2, App. xviii, 112.

²⁶ *Valor Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), iv, 170. *Pat.* 14 Jas. I, pt. 21, no. 6.

²⁷ Feet of F. Northants, Mich. 9 Chas. I.

²⁸ Ibid. III, 3 Anne.

²⁹ Ct. R. (Duchy of Lanc.), bdle. 105, no. 1505.

³⁰ Bridges, *Northants.* ii, 181-2.

³¹ Feet of F. Northants, Mich. 38 Geo. III.

³² *V.C.H. Northants.* i, 336b.

³³ *Coram Rege* R. 67, m. 26 d.

³⁴ Chan. Inq. p.m. Edw. I, file 81.

³⁵ Feet of F. Northants, Trin. 37 Eliz.

³⁶ *V.C.H. Northants.* i, 336b, 348a.

³⁷ Chan. Inq. p.m. Edw. II, file 10, no. 7.

³⁸ Ibid. Edw. III, file 4, no. 4; *ibid.* (Ser. 2), lii, 64; Feet of F. Northants, Mich. 8 Eliz., Trin. 37 Eliz.

³⁹ Chan. Inq. p.m. Edw. III, file 4, no. 4; Feet of F. Northants, Mich. 8 Eliz.

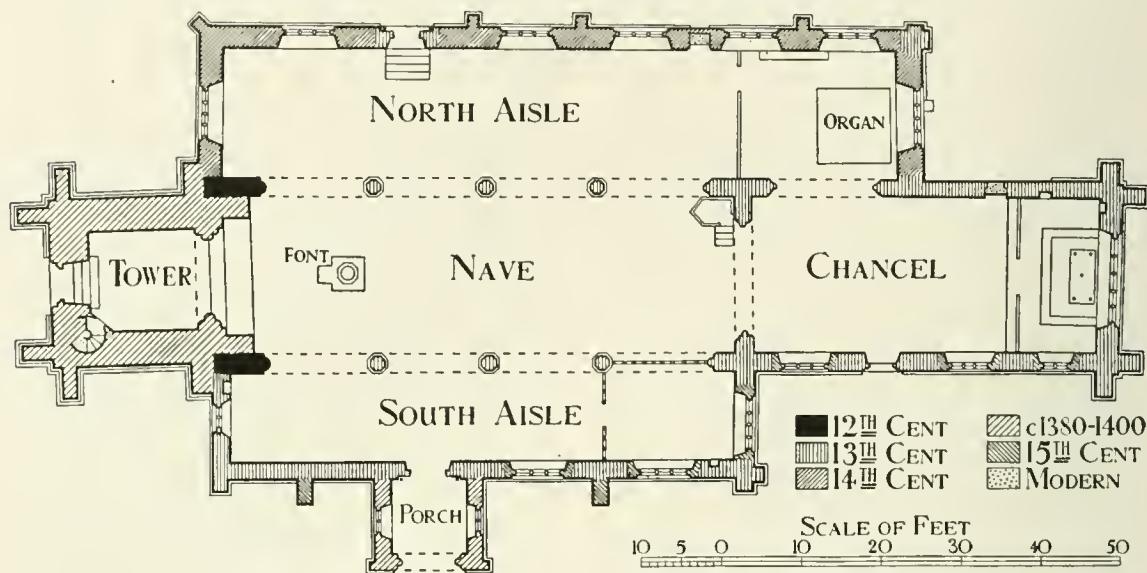
⁴⁰ Rentals & Surv. (Duchy of Lanc.), bdle. 8, no. 4.

A HISTORY OF NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

1346.¹ View of frankpledge, courts leet and baron, and other feudal dues belonged to the manor of Irchester,² and in the 14th century Emery de Nowers paid his overlord Thomas of Lancaster 2s. a year for view of frankpledge in his own manor of Little Chester.³ About the same time a custom called *Cowill-threshing* was exacted by the earl from his tenants of Irchester and Knuston.³

The church of *ST. KATHARINE CHURCH* consists of chancel, 43 ft. 4 in. by 19 ft. 6 in., with north chapel about half its length, clerestoried nave of four bays, 63 ft. 6 in. by 19 ft. 8 in., north aisle, 16 ft. wide, south aisle, 11 ft. wide, south porch, and west tower, 12 ft. 6 in. square,

nave arcades, part of the plinth of the original late-13th-century north-aisle wall remaining on either side of the doorway, but the doorway itself is of early-13th-century character and was probably removed from the wall of the earlier and narrower aisle to its present position. The west wall of the north aisle retains a portion of that of its predecessor, and there are traces at its south end of a blocked opening, including part of a jambshaft and the spring of an arch, which may imply that the 12th-century nave had an engaged western tower. The building was completed in its present form at the close of the 14th century, when the tower and spire, the clerestory, and the porch were erected. In the 15th century new windows were inserted in the



PLAN OF IRCHESTER CHURCH

with lofty spire, all these measurements being internal. The north chapel and north aisle are continuous, without division, and the width across nave and aisles is 52 ft.

The building is of rubble throughout and the walls are plastered internally. It was extensively restored in 1889 under the direction of J. L. Pearson, R.A., when the present high-pitched leaded roof of the chancel was erected⁴ and the other roofs renewed.

The lower part of the wall between the chancel and the north chapel appears to be in part of the 12th century, and the western responds of the nave arcades are also late in that century, together with the plinths of the two westernmost piers of the north arcade. The 12th-century church was thus not much smaller than the present building, with an aisled nave and somewhat shorter chancel. The two half-round western responds have square abaci with heads or foliage at the angles, and the plinths in part retain their foot ornaments and the lower member of the base moulding. The 12th-century church was rebuilt and the chancel lengthened in the course of the 13th century, when the north chapel was added, and in the 14th century the north aisle appears to have been rebuilt and united with the chapel, which was widened for that purpose. The present width of both aisles is, however, contemporary with the

chancel and the roofs altered: the parapets of the aisles are of that period.

The chancel is substantially of the 13th century, with moulded plinth, string at sill level, and coupled angle buttresses of two stages. The four-centred east window is set within 13th-century jambs, probably belonging to a triplet of lancets, and is of five trefoiled lights with vertical tracery. The three windows in the south wall are of the same type, the easternmost of two lights, the others of three, but the mullions and tracery are modern.⁵ At the east end of the south wall is a double aumbry, with its eastern opening splayed, and west of it a beautiful trefoil-headed piscina and a single arched sedile with its seat on the same level as the piscina: there was probably another seat, if not two, but this was blocked in the 14th century, when larger windows were first inserted in the wall. There is also on this side a 13th-century priest's doorway with voussoirs alternately of ironstone and freestone, shafted jambs, and inner trefoiled arch with foliated cusps. In the east wall, north of the altar, is a rebated aumbry, and the north wall is pierced at its west end by a fine late-13th-century arch of two orders, opening into the adjoining chapel, with additional shafting on the side next the chancel. East of this was a two-story vestry entered from the chancel by a doorway with rounded trefoiled

¹ *Cal. Chart. R.* i, 332; *Cal. Pat.* 1345-8, p. 477.

² *Chan. Inq.* p.m. Edw. I, file 81; Edw. III, file 6, m. 24; *Ct. R.* (Duchy of Lanc.),

bdle. 105, nos. 1497, etc.; *Parl. Surv.* (Duchy of Lanc.), no. 57.

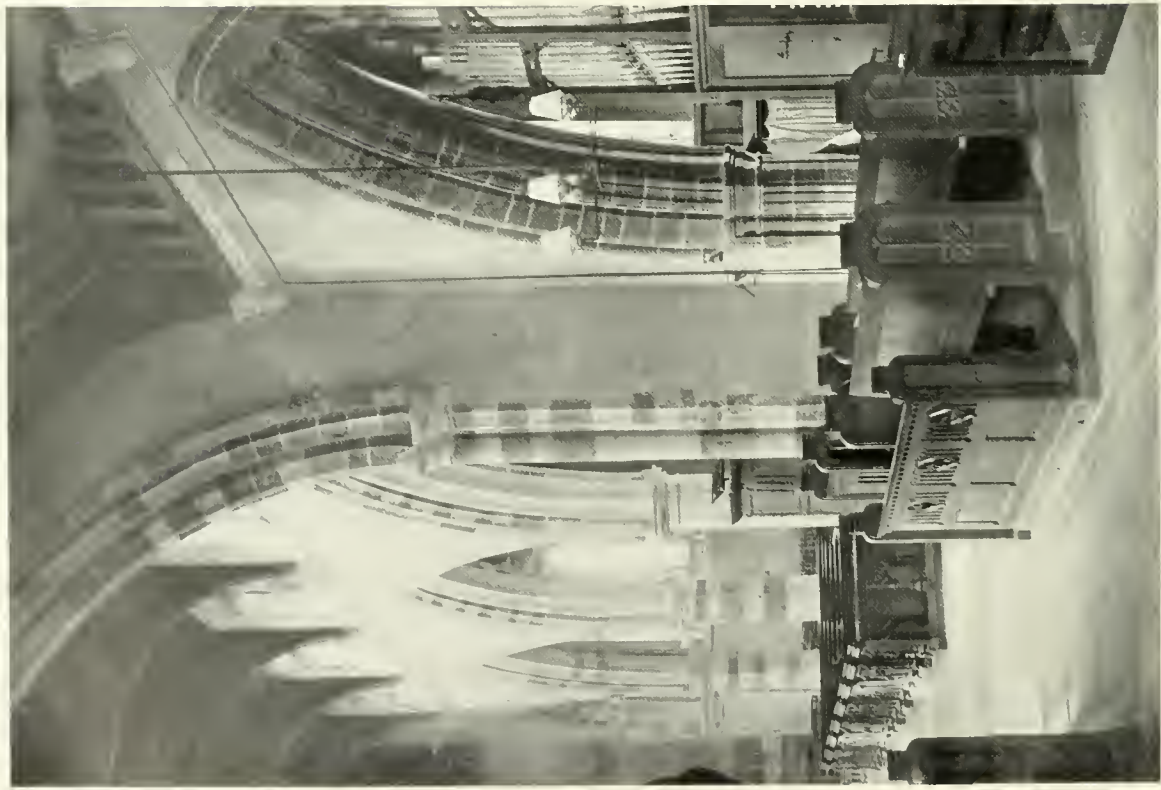
³ *Chan. Inq.* p.m. Edw. III, file 6, m. 24.

⁴ The plain parapets of the old low-pitched roof were removed.

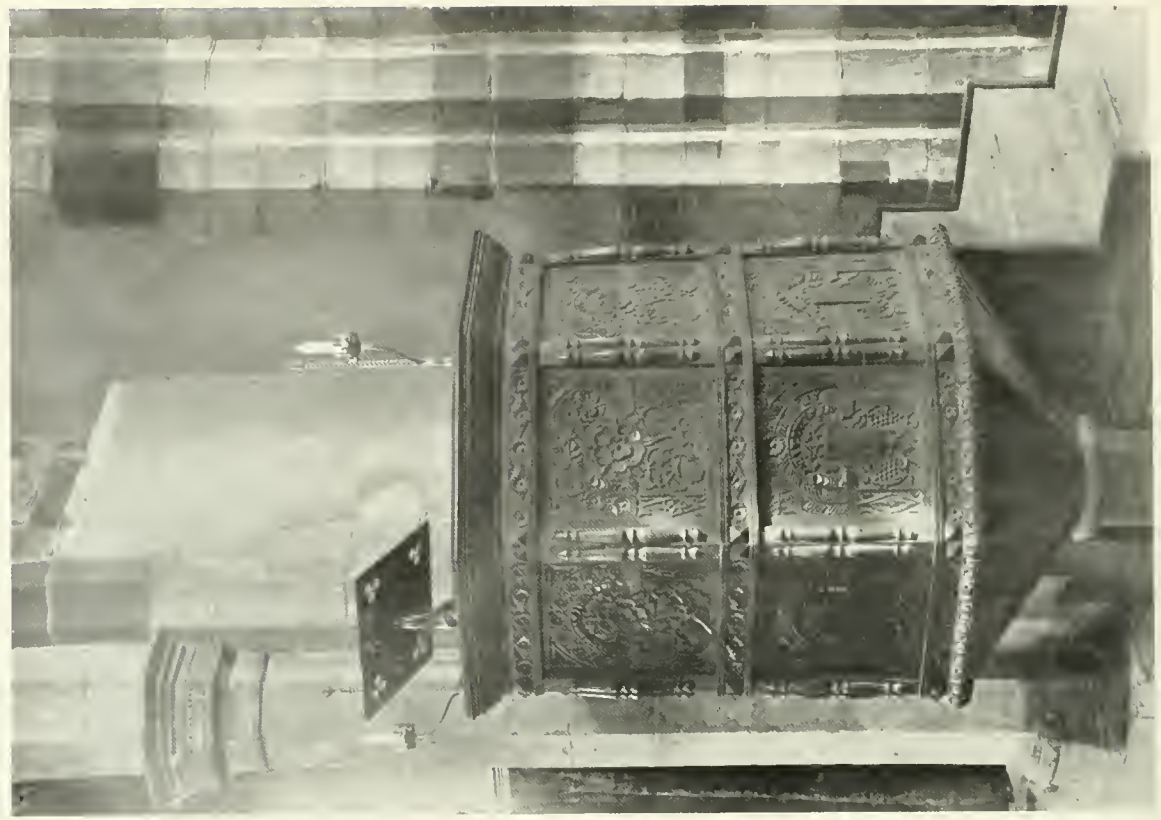
⁵ The three south windows, after being long blocked, were opened out in 1889.



IRCHESTER CHURCH, FROM THE SOUTH-EAST



IRCHESTER CHURCH: INTERIOR, LOOKING WEST



IRCHESTER CHURCH: THE PULPIT

head and moulded jambs, now blocked: the upper story of the vestry appears to have been approached by a doorway in the east wall of the chapel. Between the blocked doorway and the north-east angle of the chancel is a curious 13th-century niche beneath a straight-sided pediment enclosing a quatrefoil, with the remains of a bowl or ledge at floor-level. The present floor of the chancel, however, has been raised some 2 ft., and is now level with that of the nave, which probably followed the natural ascent of the ground from east to west. At the back of the niche is a hole in the wall, which suggests that it may have been used for baking altar-breads and was provided with a flue.¹ The chancel screen, erected in 1932, embodies some traceried portions of a 15th-century screen, long preserved in the north chapel.

The arcades of the nave, with arches of two hollow chamfered orders on octagonal piers with moulded capitals and bases, were built in the 13th century, but as already noted, the western responds and other traces of earlier arcades remain. The capital of the north-east respond has a band of nail-head ornament, but the arcade is not early in the century and the bases are without hollow mouldings. The arch between the nave and chancel, with three hollow chamfered orders on shafted responds, is of the same date: a settlement on the south side has caused the jamb to lean outward. The eastern half of the adjoining arch of the south arcade appears to have been rebuilt in the 15th century, the junction of the new with the old work being very noticeable. On each side of the chancel arch is a doorway from which stairs led to a rather low rood-loft, and above the arch are the remains of a 15th-century painted Doom.²

The north chapel, now occupied by the organ, covers the chancel for about 18 ft. Evidence of its having been widened exist at the east end, where the coupled 13th-century angle buttresses were removed and rebuilt in their present position³ probably as part of the 14th-century alterations in the north aisle, to which period the square-headed windows belong. They are similar to those of the aisle, of three plain trefoiled lights, with wave-moulded jambs, except that at the east end which is of four lights and placed high in the wall so as to clear the vestry roof. In the north wall of the chapel is a fine late-13th-century tomb recess, with richly moulded arch springing from short shafts.

The early-13th-century north doorway is of two moulded orders, the outer on shafts with moulded capitals and bases, in the former of which the nail-head occurs. Over it and on the face of the diagonal north-west buttress are the arms of Lovel, some member of which family in all probability rebuilt the aisle.

The south aisle with its doorway is of the late 13th century and retains its original angle buttresses and a two-light window with forked mullion in the west wall. The other windows are early-15th-century insertions, two square-headed and of three trefoiled lights in the south wall east of the porch, and a pointed window of four lights at the east end. Between the two south

windows is a massive buttress probably added when the new roof and parapets were erected. The doorway is of two moulded orders, the outer on shafts with moulded capitals and bases. In the usual position in the south wall is a trefoil-headed piscina, and in the west wall, north of the window, two rectangular aumbries, one above the other. The line of the original lean-to roof of the aisle is preserved at the west end below the later low-pitched gable.

The porch appears to have been heightened in the 15th century and finished with a battlemented parapet: it has transomed windows of two trefoiled lights in the side walls.

The roof of the nave is of six bays and there are four square-headed clerestory windows on each side, with a fifth at the east end on the south, added in 1500⁴ in order to light the rood-loft.

The tall and slender tower with broach spire is of the late type found at Brampton Ash, Stanion, and other places in the north of the county, and was built from the ground probably c. 1380–1400. The tower is of four stages with moulded plinth and coupled buttresses to the height of the bell-chamber stage set back from the angles. It is faced throughout with alternate courses of ironstone and freestone, and has conspicuous put-log holes in the two lower stages. The west doorway has good plain continuous mouldings and the window above it is of two cinquefoiled lights with a quatrefoil in the head. The double bell-chamber windows are of the same type: below them the north side is blank, but in the middle stage facing south is a small square-headed ogee loop. The vice is in the south-west angle. The spire rises from a corbel table of heads and flowers connected by tendrils, and has very low broaches:⁵ the angles are ribbed and there are three sets of openings on the cardinal faces, the two lower of two trefoiled lights and quatrefoil above. The height of the tower above the floor of the nave⁶ is 62 ft. 6 in., and of the spire 92 ft. 6 in.⁷ The tower arch is of three chamfered orders, the two outer continuous, the inner springing from half-octagonal responds with moulded capitals.

The 13th-century font has a roughly-carved octagonal bowl on four detached octagonal shafts.⁸ The oak stem pulpit is of early-17th-century date,⁹ with six carved panels on its seven sides. In the wall of the north aisle is a blocked doorway which apparently communicated with the gallery of the screen between the aisle and chapel.

The eastern bay of the south aisle which is screened by plain woodwork of early Tudor character, with linen-pattern lower panels, is now again used as a chapel, and contains the 17th-century communion table formerly in the chancel. A fair amount of 15th-century seating remains in the church. Of later furniture there is an interesting balustered receptacle for bread, with hinged door and lock, at the west end of the south aisle, made for the safe-keeping of the dole founded by Thomas Jenison (d. 1681), whose monument, with a long inscription, is on the north side of the chancel.

¹ Its use for the Easter sepulchre has also been suggested.

² Discovered during the restoration of 1889. Records exist of two other wall paintings, one over the north doorway.

³ The plinths are of the later period.

⁴ Under the terms of the will of John Jeffery.

⁵ Its great height and the very small

size of the squinches under the tower are of the most elegant of its class: E. H. Freeman in *Chs. Archd. N^oton*, 192.

⁶ There are five steps down from the churchyard to the floor of the tower, and three from the tower to the nave.

⁷ Total height to top of vane 159 ft. In 1930 the upper part (20 ft.) of the spire

was rebuilt. The vane, which is pierced in the form of a St. Catherine's wheel, is apparently medieval.

⁸ It is figured in Paley's *Baptismal Fonts* (1844). The carving on six of the sides is within trefoiled arches.

⁹ It probably took the place of a pulpit which in 1611 was in bad condition.

A HISTORY OF NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

Bridges records a brass memorial to John Glynton 'merchant of the staple of Calais' (d. 1506) and Isabel his wife, but little of this now remains.¹

The royal arms of Charles II (1667), long relegated to the clock chamber, have been recently placed near the south doorway.

There is a ring of eight bells, three smaller ones by Taylor of Loughborough having been added in 1930 to a former ring of five. The old treble (now fourth) is by W. Taylor of Oxford, 1846, and the old second (now fifth) is dated 1729. The old third and fourth are alphabet bells with the shield of Richard Brasyer of Norwich, and the tenor is by Edward Arnold of Leicester, 1792.² There is also a priest's bell by Taylor of Loughborough, 1882.

The plate consists of a silver cup and cover paten of 1813, a plated flagon presented by Joseph Monk, vicar, in 1881, a plated alms dish, a pewter flagon, two old pewter alms dishes, and two modern ones of Sheffield make.³

The registers before 1812 are as follows: (i) all entries 1622-81, with gaps 1665-70 and 1676-9; (ii) baptisms 1673-1740, marriages 1676-1740, burials 1675-1740; (iii) baptisms 1741-1807, marriages 1741-53, burials 1741-1806; (iv) marriages 1754-72; (v) marriages 1773-1812; (vi) baptisms and burials 1807-12. The second volume is remarkable for the extra matter inserted by Thomas Allen, vicar 1706-20, whose liberal ideas of the scope of parish registers led him to record local events in its pages.⁴

The church of St. Katharine of Irchester was given by the elder William Peverel to the Priory of Lenton.⁵ In 1227 the prior's right to the advowson was challenged by Emery de Nowers, lord of the manor of Little Chester (q.v.) who afterwards withdrew his claim.⁶ In 1268, however, the patronage was successfully claimed by Margaret de Ferrers, Countess of Derby, as part of her dower,⁷ and the church remained in the gift of the overlords of the manor⁸ until 1330 when Henry Earl of Lancaster made it part of the endowment of his hospital at Leicester⁹ to which it was accordingly appropriated.¹⁰ When the hospital was refounded as the College of Newark in 1360 (see Higham Ferrers advowson) the church of Irchester remained in its possession. It was amongst the spiritualities of this house in 1535¹¹ and came to the Crown on its dissolution in November 1547.¹² In 1607 James I granted the advowson to Robert, Earl of Salisbury,¹³ from whom it passed to Thomas Jenison, patron until his death in 1647.¹⁴ Ralph his son and heir died twelve years later and was

succeeded by his son Thomas Jenison¹⁵ who owned the advowson in 1662¹⁶ and presented in 1675.¹⁷ He died suddenly without issue in 1681,¹⁸ and his sisters, Elizabeth, wife since January 1641 of Samuel Collins of the Middle Temple,¹⁹ and Mary wife of Nathaniel Agutter with their husbands and Elizabeth's son, Samuel Collins, junior, and his wife, made a settlement in which the rectory of Irchester was included.²⁰ Afterwards the Agutters alleged that they had been defrauded of Mary's share by the younger Samuel, and in 1686 they unsuccessfully sued his son of the same name with his widowed mother and sisters. The third Samuel Collins²¹ presented to the living in 1688 and 1705.²² Samuel Collins, junior, and John Collins, presumably his sons, joined him in a settlement of the church in 1711, and the younger Samuel and John held it with Elizabeth Collins, spinster, six years later. John Collins and his wife in 1727 sold to Rupert Clarke.²³

Valentine Knightley presented to the living in 1745 and 1748, and Ambrose Dickens between 1751 and 1777;²⁴ and from 1794 to 1848 Francis Dickens was patron. In 1770 the vicarage of Irchester was joined to that of Wollaston and so remained until 1881.²⁵ During the second half of the last century the advowson changed hands several times, being held for the most part by three of its vicars, the Rev. R. Wood, the Rev. J. Monk, and the Rev. H. Slater.²⁶ It subsequently belonged to Mrs. Thomas of Reepham, Lincolnshire,²⁶ and is now held by the Misses Thomas and Mrs. Semple.

The rectory of Irchester followed the *RECTORY* descent of the advowson until 1605, when James I granted it in socage to Peter Bradshaw,²⁷ trustee, as appears from a later document, for the Earl of Salisbury²⁸ in whose possession it was again united to the advowson in 1607. [See above.] The two may have been acquired together by Thomas Jenison, owner of the parsonage inappropriate in 1610, when he was engaged in a dispute touching rights of way.²⁹ In 1773 Ambrose Dickens, then patron and lay rector, received compensation in lands for the glebelands and tithes of the rectory.³⁰

A chapel of ease in Knuston dedicated *CHAPEL* to St. Leonard had fallen into decay before 1567, when it was granted to Robert Holmes and Thomas Boughton with land belonging to it.³¹ Twenty-four years later only the site remained and was said to be held by Henry Freeman, lessee of the rectory, as 'concealed land'.³²

There were gilds of St. Katharine and St. John in the church of Irchester with lands which were included in the grant of 1567.

¹ *Hist. of Northants.* ii, 180. The brasses were in the floor near the pulpit stairs, but the figure of the man and the arms were then gone.

² North, *Ch. Bells of Northants.* 311, where the inscriptions on the old bells are given. The old second has the 'Nazarene' inscription and is probably a recasting of one of Hugh Watts's bells. The Brasyer dynasty extended over two generations from 1424 to 1513. The three new bells, together with a clock, were the gift of John Turnell Austin of Hartford, Connecticut, U.S.A., formerly of Knuston. The old bells were restored at the same time.

³ Markham, *Ch. Plate of Northants.* 164.

⁴ On the fly-leaf is a set of verses in Latin elegiacs, dated November 26, 1710, on the spire of Irchester composed 'on awakening suddenly during my sleep'. The

first volume, which according to Bridges began in 1597, has been lost.

⁵ *Cal. Chart. R.* iii, 316.

⁶ Feet of F. Northants., file 22, no. 222.

⁷ *Ibid.*, file 48, no. 861; *Rot. Ric.* *Gravesend* (Cant. & York Soc.), 109.

⁸ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* iii, pp. 296, 321.

⁹ *Cal. Pat.* 1327-30, p. 603; Misc. Bks. (Duchy of Lanc.), 11, fol. 416.

¹⁰ *Valor Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), iv, 169, 310.

¹¹ Nichols, *Leicester*, i, pt. 2, p. 336.

¹² Bridges, *Northants.* ii, 181.

¹³ Pat. 5 Jas I, pt. 17, m. 25.

¹⁴ Inst. Bks. (P.R.O.); Bridges, loc. cit.

¹⁵ Metcalfe, *Visitations of Northants.* 101.

¹⁶ Feet of F. Northants, Hil. 13 & 14 Chas. II.

¹⁷ Inst. Bks. (P.R.O.).

¹⁸ *Hist. MSS. Com. House of Lords MSS. Rep.* xii, App. vi, pp. 69, 70.

¹⁹ *Northants. Notes & Queries*, New Ser. ii, 161.

²⁰ Feet of F. Div. Co. Trin. 33 Chas. II.

²¹ *Ibid.* Northants. Mich. 3 Will. & Mary.

²² Inst. Bks. (P.R.O.).

²³ Feet of F. Northants. Mich. 10 Anne; Div. Co. Mich. 4 Geo. I; Trin. 13 Geo. I.

²⁴ Inst. Bks. (P.R.O.); Bacon, *Liber Regis*, 824.

²⁵ *Lond. Gaz.*, 4 Mar. 1881.

²⁶ *Clerical Guide; Clergy List.*

²⁷ Pat. 2 Jas. I, pt. 19.

²⁸ *Cal. S.P. Dom.* 1631-3, p. 482.

²⁹ Spec. Com. (Duchy of Lanc.), no. 864.

³⁰ Acts Priv. and Loc. 13 Geo. III, cap. 15.

³¹ Pat. 9 Eliz. pt. 5, m. 10.

³² Misc. Bks. (Duchy of Lanc.), 117, fol. 1176.

The Feoffee Estate has been held in trust from the time of King Henry VIII and is regulated by a scheme of the Charity Commissioners dated *CHARITIES* 10 May 1912. The trustees are 8 in number, 5 being appointed by the parish council and 3 are co-opted. The property originally consisted of 36 acres of land at Irchester, 1 acre in Knuston Great Meadow, a house and blacksmith's shop and 12 cottages in Irchester. The house and shop and cottages and about 1½ acres of land have been sold and the proceeds, together with accumulations of income, invested with the Official Trustees.

The gross income amounts to about £112, and the net income is applied in aid of the Local Nursing Fund.

Thomas Jenison by his will dated in 1681 gave an annuity of £5 4s. charged upon his right to tithe hay and grain of the village of Knuston to be paid to the churchwardens and distributed in bread to the poor weekly. This charge is paid by the owner of the Knuston estate and is applied in the weekly distribution of bread.

Samuel Sharwood Charity was founded by indenture dated 17 June 1858. The income of £7 8s. 2d. yearly is distributed in sums of 5s. amongst the deserving poor by two trustees appointed by the parish council.

NEWTON BROMSWOLD

Niwetone (xi cent.); Newton (xii cent.); Nywetona (xiii cent.); Newton beside Heggham Ferres (xiv cent.); Newnton (xvi cent.); Newton Bromswold *alias* Newton next Higham Parke (xvii cent.).

The parish of Newton Bromswold lies on the borders of Bedfordshire with Chelveston cum Caldecott on the north and Higham Park on the west and south. It covers an area of 828 acres. The altitude of the parish is about 300 ft., the upper soil clay, the subsoil Oxford Clay with streaks of Cornbrash on the east and west.

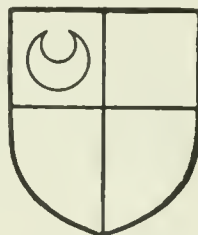
The common and waste lands of Newton Bromswold were inclosed in 1800.¹ In 1931 the population consisted of 71 persons. The village, which is small and contains few buildings besides the church, rectory, and school, is situated in the east of the parish, 4½ miles south-east of Higham Ferrers station.

The name Bromswold seems to refer to the 'Bruneswald', a large area of woodland on the borders of Huntingdonshire and Northamptonshire, in which Hereward and his men took refuge at the beginning of his rising against the Normans.²

Two hides less half a virgate which Azor *MANOR* had formerly held in *NEWTON*, were in 1086 held of the bishop of Coutances by William, his steward.³ This estate descended with the manor of Cotes Bidun (q.v.)⁴ to John de Gatesden, who with Richard Croton was holding of the heirs of Baldwin Wake half a fee in Newton in 1284.⁵ Gatesden's representative, Richard Chamberlain, in 1428 held half a fee in Cotes and Newton 'of the fee of John Bidon'.⁶

As early as 1166 Richard de Neuton and 'another Richard of the same vill' were holding a fee in Newton of John de Bidun,⁷ and other members of the family occur in connexion with the advowson (q.v.) until the end of the 13th century, but in 1346 John Druell was in possession.⁸ On the death of a later John Druell⁹ in 1496 the manor descended to his younger brother Richard.¹⁰ Richard died in 1525 leaving Newton to his wife Grace, after whose death it was to be sold and the proceeds devoted to the maintenance of a chantry in the Fraternity of the Gild of Jesus in Baldock.¹¹ This was possibly done when lands in Newton Broms-

wold were sold by his elder daughter and, ultimately, sole heir Anne¹² and her husband Robert Warner to Thomas Brooke, who held them at his death in 1558.¹³ Half the manor was in the hands of Francis Negus in 1639,¹⁴ and (? the other) half was confirmed to him in 1644 by William Negus and his wife Jane, whose inheritance it evidently was.¹⁵ Francis Negus and his wife Susan sold the manor of Drewell's in 1644 to Needham Langhorne,¹⁶ who settled it on William Langhorne in 1661.¹⁷ Fourteen years later a moiety of the manor was owned by Thomas Wileman and his wife Anne.¹⁸ Edward Disborough, and Edward Cromwell Disborough made a settlement of a third of the manor in 1811.¹⁹ Later in the 19th century Newton Bromswold came into the possession of Frederick Urban Sartoris of Rushden Hall in whose family it still remains.



DRUELL. Quarterly argent and sable with a crescent gules in the first quarter.

The church of *ST. PETER* consists of *CHURCH* chancel, 25 ft. 9 in. by 16 ft.; clerestoried nave of two bays, 31 ft. by 15 ft. 2 in.; north aisle, 10 ft. wide; south porch, and west tower 7 ft. 3 in. by 7 ft. 9 in. surmounted by a spire, all these measurements being internal. There is also a vestry at the west end against the north side of the tower.

The church appears to be a 14th-century rebuilding of a 13th-century fabric, little or nothing of which remains architecturally, but the south wall of the nave was reconstructed, the porch and clerestory added, and new windows inserted in the aisle in the 15th century. The lower part of the tower may belong to the early structure but has been much restored, and the tower generally is contemporary with the 14th-century chancel. The four-centred arches of the nave arcade may have been built at the same time as the south wall, but the piers and responds have capitals of distinctly 14th-century character, and the north doorway is of the same period. The vestry appears to be a 17th-century addition,²⁰ but has been modernized. The church

¹ Acts Priv. and Loc. 40 Geo. III, cap. 36.

² *Place-Names of Northants.* (Engl. Pl.-N. Soc.), 193.

³ *V.C.H. Northants.* i, 311a. Another virgate, also held by William, was assessed under Bedfordshire: *V.C.H. Beds.* i, 225a.

⁴ *Bk. of Fees*, 495, 932.

⁵ *Feud. Aids*, iv, 14. Cf. *Cal. Inq. p.m.* ii, no. 439.

⁶ *Feud. Aids*, iv, 45.

⁷ *Red Bk. of Exch.* 332.

⁸ *Feud. Aids*, iv, 445.

⁹ He was the son of William Druell: *V.C.H. Herts.* iii, 223.

¹⁰ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), xi, 53.

¹¹ *Ibid.* xlvii, 123.

¹² *Bridges, Northants.* ii, 326.

¹³ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), cxv, 42.

¹⁴ *Recov. R. Mich.* 15 Chas. I, m. 88.

¹⁵ Feet of F. Northants. Trin. 17 Chas. I.

¹⁶ *Ibid.* Trin. 19 Chas. I.

¹⁷ *Ibid.* Trin. 13 Chas. II.

¹⁸ *Ibid.* Hilt. 26-7 Chas. II.

¹⁹ *Recov. R. Mich.* 52 Geo. III, ro. 157.

²⁰ The flat ogee head of the doorway from the aisle belongs to a type common in the 17th century. The vestry was described as 'roofless and in a sad state of neglect' in 1849 (*Chs. Arch. N'ton*, 174) and so remained in 1877 (*Assoc. Arch. Soc. Reports*, xiv, p. 21). As restored it has two modern windows on the west and a doorway on the north side.

A HISTORY OF NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

was restored in 1879,¹ and the tower and spire in 1883.²

The church is built throughout of rubble, plastered internally, and the chancel has a modern tiled eaved roof. The nave and aisle have low-pitched leaded roofs behind battlemented parapets, the nave parapets being very big and clumsy.³

The chancel is of two bays with chamfered plinth and diagonal angle buttresses of two stages. The pointed east window is of three trefoiled lights with reticulated tracery and internal and external hood-moulds terminating in notch-heads, and at the east end of the south wall and west end of the north wall are pointed windows of two trefoiled lights with quatrefoil in the head and similar hood-moulds. The priest's doorway has a continuous moulding, but is quite plain internally, and west of it is a square-headed window of two trefoiled lights with pointed rear-arch. The sills of the two south windows form seats. There are image-brackets in the east wall north and south of the altar, the former quite plain, the latter mutilated but with a sculptured face on the underside. Along the south wall is an arcade of six pointed arches of a single chamfered order without hood-moulds, springing, except at the east end, from attached half-shafts with moulded capitals and bases, and continued down the jamb at the west. The easternmost arch forms the piscina recess and is carried on a detached octagonal shaft and half-octagonal respond with moulded capitals and bases: the bowl of the piscina is fluted. The remainder of the arcade stands on a stone bench table with projecting ledge 13 in. above the present floor-level and extending as far as the priest's doorway. The eastern bay of the north wall is blank but for a pointed recess of a single hollow-chamfered order, on part-octagonal shafts with moulded capitals.⁴ The chancel arch is of two chamfered orders, the outer stopped or cut away, and the inner continued to the ground. On the north side is a plain pointed squint from the nave and on the south a small bracket. The floors of chancel and nave are level.

The nave arcade appears to have been cut through an earlier wall, there being about 6 ft. of masonry at the east end and 3 ft. at the west. The responds follow the section of the pier, which is composed of four attached shafts with fillets and hollows between, and with moulded capital and base. The bells of the respond capitals are plain, but that of the pier is carved with oak leaves and over one of the shafts is a four-leaf flower.⁵ The arches are of two chamfered orders.

There are three square-headed clerestory windows of two trefoiled lights on each side, and the hollow string below the parapet is ornamented on the south side with four-leaf flowers, faces, and shields, and with heads at the angles.⁶

The north doorway is of a single continuous wave-moulded order with label, and the aisle has two four-centred windows of two and three cinquefoiled lights respectively in the north wall and a square-headed window of three trefoiled lights with Perpendicular

tracery at the east end. The mutilated piscina of the aisle altar remains in the usual position and south of the east window is a plain chamfered image-bracket.

The four-centred south doorway is of a single continuous moulded order with hood-mould, and the nave has a single window of three cinquefoiled lights with depressed head. The pointed outer doorway of the porch is of two chamfered orders, and in the gable above is a modern panel with St. Peter's keys: the porch has stone benches and traceried side windows.

The tower is of three stages, with battlemented parapet and angle gargoyles. The north and south walls are blank in the lower stages, but on the west is a modern trefoiled lancet window between two heavy two-stage buttresses set well back from the angles. There are buttresses also on the south and east sides, but no vice. The bell-chamber windows are of two trefoiled lights with quatrefoil in the head. The tower arch is the full width of the interior, its three chamfered orders dying out on either side.⁷ The spire has plain angles and two sets of gabled openings on the cardinal faces, the lower being of two trefoiled lights: its low broaches are hidden by the parapet.

The lean-to roof of the aisle is old, perhaps 17th century, with moulded principals and purlins, and wall-pieces resting on the stone corbels of an earlier roof, carved with heads and grotesques.

The 14th-century font has a plain octagonal bowl moulded on the underside, stem with incised tracery on six of its eight sides, and moulded plinth: there is a later pyramidal oak cover with battlemented edge and crocketed angles.

The pulpit retains a little 15th-century woodwork, but is for the most part a restoration: some 17th-century panels are worked into it at the back.

The wooden chancel screen is in memory of the men of the village who fell in the war of 1914-18.

On blue stone slabs in the chancel floor are two well-preserved 15th-century brasses of priests in mass vestments, the earlier representing William Hewet, rector (d. 1426), and the later Roger Hewet, chaplain (d. 1487).⁸

Some fragments of 15th-century glass remain in two of the aisle windows, including a mitred head said to represent Archbishop Chichele, and in the north window of the chancel two heads of saints, formerly in the clerestory.

Two 15th-century oak seats, with moulded rails and buttressed ends, remain in the nave, and one as a return stall in the chancel. In the vestry is a late-17th- or early-18th-century chest.

There is a mural tablet in the nave to Harry Lamb, gent. (d. 1727).

To the south-east of the porch is the base of a churchyard cross.⁹

There are four bells, the first dated 1746, the second by Taylor & Co., 1887, the third a medieval bell inscribed 'Sancte Petre ora pro nobis', and the tenor an alphabet bell dated 1639.¹⁰

¹ Reopened 23 July 1879.

² Reopened 10 January 1884.

³ There are seven merlons only on each side. The porch has plain parapets.

⁴ The recess is 6 ft. wide, and the arch springs at a height of 3 ft. 6 in. The bases of the shafts are covered with plaster. The depth of the recess is 8½ in., but it appears to have been filled in: a joint in the external masonry indicates the position of the east jamb.

⁵ The capital follows the outline of the pier, over three shafts of which are detached oak leaves and over the fourth two oak leaves and a four-leaf flower.

⁶ There is also the figure of a man lying full length: on the north side the string is plain.

⁷ In 1849 the upper part of the tower arch was blocked by a gallery: *Chs. Arch. N^on.* 175.

⁸ They are figured in Hudson's *Brasses of Northants.*

⁹ *Assoc. Arch. Soc. Reports*, xxiii, 183.

¹⁰ North, *Ch. Bells of Northants.* 343, where the inscriptions on the first, third, and tenor are given. The third has the shield used by the Bury St. Edmunds foundry, bearing the initials H.S. and also the keys of St. Peter, a bell, a cannon, and the crossed arrows of St. Edmund.

The plate consists of a silver cup and cover paten of 1570, an alms plate of 1656 given by Barbara Langhorne, a paten of 1885, and a plated flagon.¹

The registers before 1812 are as follows: (i) baptisms 1563–1748, marriages 1566–1748, burials 1560–1748; (ii) baptisms and burials 1749–1812; (iii) marriages 1756–1812.

During the greater part of the 13th *ADVOVSON* century the advowson descended with the manor (q.v.) and in 1205 William son of Amfrid of Newton recognized that it was the right of Richard of Newton.² Sir Richard son of Henry of Newton recovered the advowson against John de Gatesden and was succeeded by his son Richard, patron in 1272,³ who in 1281 sold the advowson to Walter de Trailly, lord of Yelden in Bedfordshire,⁴ and it followed the descent of the manor of Yelden until 1374,⁵ with this exception that Isabel widow of the elder Richard recovered the presentation of 1291 from Eleanor, Walter's widow;⁶ but the latter presented in 1305.⁷

Between 1374 and 1380 the advowson had passed into the possession of John Curteys,⁷ lord of Wymington in Bedfordshire, and it followed the descent of that manor⁸ until 1598, when both were sold to William Bletsoe.⁹ In 1606 William Bletsoe sold the advowson and rectory of Newton Bromswold to Robert Hewet of that parish, yeoman, who in 1615, before the marriage

of his son Michael with Elizabeth, widowed daughter of Edward Aspin, settled them on his other sons Edmund and Edward Aspin that they might present Michael to the living and hold in trust for Elizabeth and her sons by Michael.¹⁰ Edmund presented his brother in 1634.¹¹ In 1663 James Seaton presented Edward Troll,¹¹ to whom in 1669 Robert Hewett, clerk, transferred the advowson.¹² From 1710 until 1778 with two exceptions and again in 1817, the patron was a member of the Bletsoe family;¹³ Edward Tanqueray, patron from 1783 to 1788,¹³ presented also in 1822 and 1829. Major Penrice, patron from 1836 to 1841, was succeeded in or before 1843 by All Souls College with whom the advowson still remained in 1883. In 1885 the patron was the Rev. W. Ager, then rector, and he was succeeded by Mr. O. E. Ager. From him it passed to Mr. S. G. Stopford Sackville, who in October 1920 transferred it to the Bishop of Peterborough. Since 1927 the living has been amalgamated with that of Chelveston.¹⁴

The church estate consists of about *CHARITIES* 6 acres of land situate in the parish.

The origin is unknown, but the rents have been applied for a great number of years to the expenses of the church. The charity is administered by the rector and a co-opted trustee in accordance with the provisions of a Scheme of the Charity Commissioners of 12 August 1890. The land is let to several tenants and produces £5 15s. yearly.

RAUNDS

Rande (xi cent.); Raines (xvi cent.).

The ecclesiastical parish of Raunds, which contains about 4,460 acres, touches Huntingdonshire on its eastern and north-eastern sides. The soil is for the most part heavy and grows wheat, barley, roots, and seeds, but a great number of the inhabitants are employed in the boot-making industry, the population in 1931 being 3,683. There is a station on the Kettering and Cambridge branch of the L.M.S. railway about 1½ miles north-east of the large modern village of Raunds.

The village, which is famous for its church tower, one of the finest in Northamptonshire, is the headquarters of the district Society of Bellringers. The curfew is still rung on week-days from Michaelmas to Lady Day at 8 p.m., and as late as 1886 the Gleaning Bell was still rung, as a signal that gleaning might begin, if the gleaners agreed to pay for it.¹⁵ An urban district council of twelve members was formed under the Local Government Order of 1897. In 1935 the parish of Stanwick (q.v.) was added to the urban district of Raunds and the number of councillors increased to fifteen.

A large 13th-century stone barn, which formerly stood near the church on the south side, was pulled down about 1850. It had a high-pitched roof and end gables with finials, and was seven bays in length, with

buttresses of two stages and tall loop windows in the upper part of the walls.¹⁶

Thomas Walkington, the author of *The Optick Glasse of Humours*, which has been described as a fore-runner of Burton's *Anatomy of Melancholy*, was presented to the vicarage in 1608. He died in 1621, some years before the birth of a writer on kindred subjects, William Drage, who was the son of a yeoman at Raunds, a great believer in astrology and a disciple of Dr. Primrose, the opponent of Harvey; his medical works obtained, in his own age, more than local fame. John Grimbold, the builder of Trinity College library at Cambridge and part of Clare College, was also born here.¹⁷

There is a Baptist chapel and a Methodist chapel, with Sunday schools which were built in 1874; and another Methodist chapel was opened in 1899.

At the time of the Domesday Survey the *MANORS* king held 10½ hides in Higham Hundred;¹⁸

and it appears from an inquest held in 1318 that this included one virgate in Raunds, 'containing forty acres and making half a hide'; this was of the ancient demesne of the Crown and 'never belonged to the fee of Peverel'.¹⁹ It was then held of the king by the Earl of Lancaster of whom it was held by various tenants in villeinage; and it seems to have followed the

¹ Markham, *Ch. Plate of Northants.* 197.

² *Cur. Reg. R.* iii, 290; iv, 31.

³ *Rot. Rob. Grosseteste* (Cant. & York Soc.), 164; *Rot. Ric. Gravesend*, 120.

⁴ Feet of F. Northants., file 52, no. 73.

⁵ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* ii, 483; *V.C.H. Beds.* iii, 176; Bridges, loc. cit.

⁶ *Coram Rege R.* 134, m. 8

⁷ Bridges, loc. cit.

⁸ *V.C.H. Beds.* iii, 118

⁹ Feet of F. Div. Co. Trin. 40 Eliz.

¹⁰ *Recov. R. Mich.* 19 Jas. I, m. 10.

¹¹ *Inst. Bks.* (P.R.O.).

¹² Feet of F. Northants. East. 20 Chas. II.

¹³ *Inst. Bks.* (P.R.O.); Bacon, *Liber Reg.* 823.

¹⁴ *Clerical Guide; Clergy List*; information from the episcopal registrar.

¹⁵ *Northants. N. & Q.* i, 248. This was done in many parishes of the county.

¹⁶ It is figured in *Chs. Arch. N'ton* (1849), 65; the buttresses on the south side were then perfect, but the timbers of the roof had been a good deal patched. The principals were original, 'their feet embedded in the wall against the buttresses at about 4 ft. from the ground'.

¹⁷ *Dict. Nat. Biog.*

¹⁸ *V.C.H. Northants.* i, 308a.

¹⁹ *Cal. Misc. Inq.* ii, 371.

A HISTORY OF NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

descent of Lancaster's other land in the parish, ultimately becoming included in the duchy. A return of 1316 shows that half *RAUNDS* was held by the Earl of Lancaster and the remainder by the king since the death of the Earl of Gloucester;¹ and it will be seen that various manors were held of the duchy and of the honor of Gloucester.



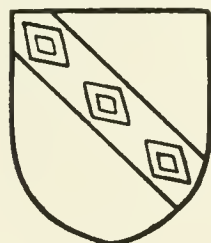
LANCASTER. Gules three leopards or with a label of France.



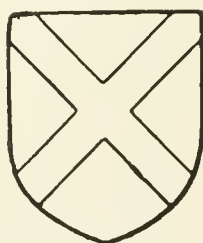
CLARE. Or three chevronels gules.

On 28 November 1618 the customary tenants agreed with King James I for £1,640, to be paid in two moieties, to hold and enjoy their estates with liberty of inclosing and exchanging; their fines being fixed at one year's ancient rent. The reeve, who was chosen yearly to collect the rents, had 'certain doles of meadow and some leys worth per annum £4', allowed to him by custom, and the inhabitants also collected and paid to him £1 5s. 9½d.² The Crown is still lord of the manor.

William Peverel held 7½ hides and ½ virgate of socland in Raunds in 1086 which followed the descent of Higham Ferrers (q.v.).³ Of this land half a fee was held of Earl Ferrers in 1242 by Gilbert de Segrave and an eighth of a fee by Henry de Raunds,⁴ who held a quarter of a fee here of the honor of Gloucester.⁵ The whole of the Raunds's property passed in the 15th century to the Gage family, from whom it became known as *GAGE'S MANOR*. The earliest known member of the Raunds family is Herlewin, who accounted for 3 marks fine for the forest in 1176,⁶ and occurs as late as



RAUNDS. Azure a bend argent with three voided lozenges gules thereon.



GAGE. Party saltirewise azure and argent a saltire gules.

1205.⁷ Henry de Raunds, already mentioned, seems to have been succeeded by Geoffrey, who acquired further land in the parish in 1248 from Simon de Nevill and Sara his wife.⁸ Richard de Raunds held the fourth part

of a fee in Raunds of the Earl of Lancaster in 1284,⁹ but was succeeded before 1296 by Saer,¹⁰ probably his son, who married before 1310 Joan widow of Richard Chamberlain of Cotes.¹¹ His heir was another Richard de Raunds, who held the property in 1346,¹² and was succeeded by Thomas de Raunds, whose daughter and heir Margaret married John Tawyer.¹³ Their son John Tawyer died in 1475, leaving as his heir his daughter Margaret, the wife of John Gage,¹⁴ whose son Henry Gage married Margaret, daughter and heir of Richard Boyville, and was succeeded by his son George. He died 2 June 1558, leaving a widow Cecily and several children; his heir was his son Henry, then aged 18½ years.¹⁵ Cecily's sister, Margaret Wolstan, had married during the reign of Edward VI Thomas Burbank, who on account of his marriage was deprived of his prebend in the time of Queen Mary. About the beginning of Elizabeth's reign he began 'a chargeable and tedious sewte continewng in lawe above seven yeares' concerning it. During the last part of this period Robert Gage, Cecily's third son, acted for the Burbanks, for whom Henry in the meantime had provided out of his inheritance; and, when the case was at last decided in Burbank's favour, he bought Gage's Manor from Henry for £440, and settled one moiety on himself and his wife Margaret and the other moiety on Cecily, with reversion of both to Robert.¹⁶ Henry quitclaimed his interest to his brother in 1568, on condition that Robert should pay £60 towards the marriage portion of their sister Elizabeth.¹⁷ Cecily died in 1577, and the Burbanks then leased to Robert their portion of the manor, together with property in Geddington and in Brixworth, from which £8 14s. 8d. was to be paid yearly towards the maintenance of a free grammar school in Great Blencow, Cumberland.¹⁸ Thomas Burbank died about 1581, and after the death of his widow, in 1590, William Fosbrook sued Robert Gage for the rent, Margaret having apparently made a will in his favour, which Gage declared to have been obtained by undue influence. Gage seems to have been successful, and the manor was held in 1608 either by him or his son and namesake.¹⁹ It passed before 1622 to John the son of Henry Gage, who with his wife Jane dealt with it in that year.²⁰ On 17 July 1624 John Gage obtained a grant of the office of Receiver of the honor of Higham Ferrers.²¹ He died before 1651, and his son John²² sold the manor in 1661 to Sir John Langham, bart.²³ It has passed in the Langham family to Sir H. C. A. Langham, bart., the present owner.

In 1242 Gilbert de Segrave was holding half a fee in *RAUNDS* of the Earl of Ferrers,²⁴ but his connexion with it appears to have been temporary,²⁵ and it is probably the same half fee that was held of the Earl of Lancaster by Ella de Audley, the daughter of William Longespee and widow of James de Audley.²⁶ It descended to her son Hugh, whose son Sir James de Audley was the tenant in 1296.²⁷ Sir James married

¹ *Feud. Aids*, iv, 29.

² Duchy of Lanc. Parl. Surv. No. 58.

³ *V.C.H. Northants*, i, 337a.

⁴ *Bk. of Fees*, ii, 933.

⁵ *Ibid.*, 945. This quarter fee was held in 1428 by Thomas Raunds of 'the lord of Yelden', i.e. Edmund Hampden to whom Sir John Trailly had sold Yelden about 1400 (*V.C.H. Beds.* iii, 177): *Feud. Aids*, iv, 45.

⁶ *Pipe R.* 22 Hen. II (*Pipe R. Soc.*), 51.

⁷ *Cur. Reg. R.* iii, 307.

⁸ Feet of F. Northants., file 36, no. 571.

⁹ *Feud. Aids*, iv, 13.

¹⁰ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* iii, 423.

¹¹ De Banco R. no. 183, m. 81 d.

¹² *Feud. Aids*, iv, 445.

¹³ Metcalfe, *Visitations of Northants*.

¹⁴ *Ibid.* Visitation of 1564; she is called Anne in the Visitation of 1618.

¹⁵ Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), cxiv, 13.

¹⁶ Ct. of Req. bdle. 114, no. 34.

¹⁷ *Ibid.*; Feet of F. Northants. East.

¹⁸ Eliz.

¹⁹ Feet of F. Northants. Trin. 6 Jas. I.

²⁰ *Ibid.* Trin. 19 Jas. I.

²¹ *Cal. S.P. Dom.* 1603-25, p. 304.

²² Feet of F. Northants. Hil. 1651; *Recov. R. Hil.* 1651, m. 35.

²³ Feet of F. Div. Co. Hil. 12-13 Chas. II.

²⁴ *Bk. of Fees*, 933.

²⁵ The half fee in Middle Cotes (q.v.) which was held by his grand-daughter Maud in 1314 was held of the honor of Gloucester, so cannot be identical with this.

²⁶ *Feud. Aids*, iv, 14.

²⁷ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* iii, p. 296.

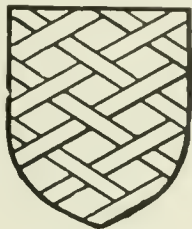
Eve, daughter and heir of Sir John Clavering and widow of his cousin Thomas Audley, by whom he had two sons: Sir Peter, who died childless in 1359, and Sir James, the hero of Poitiers, who died in 1369. His heir was his first cousin, Margaret, wife of Ralph Stafford and daughter and heir of Hugh de Audley (grandson of Ella) and Margaret de Clare.¹ The tenancy of the half fee having thus passed to the holders of the honor of Gloucester, the property came to be sometimes regarded as part of the honor. In 1428 it was held, as a quarter of a fee, by Thomas Bedell and Thomas Saier in equal portions, probably under a lease or demise for term of years, of Humphrey Stafford,² afterwards Duke of Buckingham. The manor, or more probably a portion of it, 'late belonging to the Earl of Wiltshire' was conveyed in 1593 by William Roper and William Perry to Robert Catlyn,³ and was probably amalgamated with his other manor of Furnells (q.v.). Like other manors held of the honor of Gloucester in Raunds it was described at this time as Furnells, and about 1635 a list of freeholders in Raunds includes the Earl of Peterborough 'for parcel of the manor of Furnells, formerly of the Earl of Wiltshire'.⁴ This may include the estate as well as other property of the Mordaunt family, originating in the 'manor of Raundes' acquired by Henry Grene from John, Duke of Lancaster before 1363.⁵ This manor afterwards followed the descent of Lowick (q.v.) until 1686,⁶ after which date its identity is lost.

Geoffrey, Bishop of Coutances, held 6 hides and 1½ virgates in Raunds in 1086. There were 20 acres of meadow, and a mill belonged to this manor, which had previously been held by Burred and seems to have included both Ringstead and Cotes or Cotton. Three socmen held land of the bishop: Robert, 1 hide; Geoffrey, 1 hide; and Algar, 1½ virgates. Another hide, together with half a virgate, was claimed by William.⁷ After the bishop's fief had escheated to the Crown, most of the lands held of him in Cotes and Raunds ultimately became part of the honor of Gloucester. Early in the reign of Henry I Gilbert fitz Richard held 4 small virgates of the fee of Denford, and Robert the king's son had 2½ hides of the fee of Gloucester, in Raunds.⁸

Alice widow of Gilbert fitz Richard, with the consent of his children, Gilbert, Walter, Baldwin, and Rohaise, confirmed to the abbey of Thorney (co. Cambridge) 4 virgates in Raunds, held by Turgis, which Tovi had formerly granted them, with the consent of Agnes widow of Tovi, and all his heirs,⁹ and she also confirmed to them the land and rent of 4s. granted them

by Ralf the son of Niel, and Amice his wife. In 1253 Richard Earl of Gloucester confirmed the charter of his mother Alice granting them 1 hide and 12s. rent, which she had in Raunds of the gift of her son Hervey.¹⁰

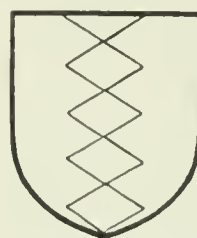
Part of the land held by Richard de Raunds at the beginning of the reign of Edward I was held 'of the fee of the Abbot of Thorney',¹¹ which passed to the Crown at the Dissolution, and may perhaps be identified with the manor of *BURYSTED* in Raunds. This was held on a lease for the lives of William, Henry, and Edward Ekins in the 17th century; by 1649 only one life was in being, that of Edward Ekins, who was then 60, and the messuage had been sold in fee farm, after the determination of the lease, to John Dolben, afterwards Archbishop of York,¹² who came into possession after the Restoration, and the property was held by his descendants until 1802, when Sir William Dolben was lord of the manor.¹³



AUDLEY. *Gules frettyor.*



DOLBEN. *Sable a helmet between three pheons argent each pointing to the centre.*



FURNEUS. *Sable a pale indented argent.*

FURNELLS MANOR. In 1203 Hervey the son of Geoffrey sued Roger de Furneus for a knight's fee in Raunds and Ringstead as his right and inheritance, of which his grandfather, Hugh de St. Lo, had died seised in the time of Henry I.¹⁴ As Hugh's surname shows that he came from the Norman home of the Mowbrays, it seems possible that he was the heir of that Geoffrey who held 1 hide of the Bishop of Coutances in 1086.¹⁵ A Geoffrey de Furneus was living in 1130,¹⁶ and another Geoffrey, the son of Alan de Furneus, succeeded his father in 1189.¹⁷

Thomas de Furneus held this fee in Raunds in 1242;¹⁸ he married Eleanor, daughter and co-heir of William le Lord of Emberton (co. Buckingham),¹⁹ and died before 1284, being succeeded by Roger de Furneus, presumably his son.²⁰ Roger granted 15 acres in the fields of Raunds to John the son of his sister Alice in exchange for a messuage in Raunds called Swyncroft and other lands there.²¹ The heir of Roger de Furneus was another Thomas, who married Alice, sister and co-heir of Miles de Hastings; she was over 30 at the time of her brother's death in 1311, and had a son named William.²² The manor in Raunds, however,

¹ G.E.C. *Complete Peerage*.

² *Feud. Aids*, iv, 46. In an undated document assigned by the editors to 1330 (ibid. vi, 568) it is said to be held of the Duchy of Lancaster by John de Gray, but there is no other trace of this tenant, and the date is very doubtful.

³ Bridges, *Northants*, ii, 186.

⁴ Finch-Hatton Deeds (*penes* Northants. Rec. Soc.), 3454.

⁵ *Cal. Pat.* 1361-64, p. 296.

⁶ Ibid. 1399-1401, p. 551; Chan. Inq. p.m. 1 Hen. V, no. 33; 5 Hen. V, nos. 39, 41; 17 Hen. VI, no. 31; (Ser. 2), xi, 4; lii, 30; lxxxiii, 75; cccix, 200; di, 64;

Feet of F. Div. Co. East. 4 Hen. V, no. 45; Trin. 30 Hen. VIII; Northants. Mich. 18 & 19 Eliz.; Hil. 14 Chas. I; Early Chan. Proc. bdle. 8, no. 18; Chan. Proc. (Ser. 2), bdle. 31, no. 215; Star Chamber Proc. Ph. & M. bdle. 4, no. 63; Ct. of Req. bdle. 11, no. 142; bdle. 40, no. 53; Recov. R. Hil. 1 and 2 Jas. II, m. 62.

⁷ *P.C.H. Northants*, i, 309b.

⁸ Ibid. 377.

⁹ *Northants. Rec. Soc.* iv, 13-14; Dugdale, *Mon.* ii, 601, 602, 603.

¹⁰ Ibid. 603.

¹¹ *Hund. R.* (Rec. Com.), ii, 10.

¹² Duchy of Lanc. Parl. Surv. no. 58.

¹³ Feet of F. Northants. Trin. 34 Chas. II; Recov. R. Trin. 6 Geo. I, m. 217; Mich. 12 Geo. III, m. 174; 42 Geo. III.

¹⁴ *Cur. Reg.* R. iii, 72, 228, 291.

¹⁵ *P.C.H. Northants*, i, 309.

¹⁶ *Pipe R.* 31 Hen. I, 152.

¹⁷ Farrer, *Honors and Knights' Feet*, ii, 79.

¹⁸ *Bk. of Fees*, ii, 933, 945.

¹⁹ De Banco R. 452, m. 225.

²⁰ *Feud. Aids*, iv, 14.

²¹ Harl. Chart. 111 G. 29.

²² Farrer, op. cit. i, 191; *Cal. Fine R.* ii, 104.

seems to have passed into the possession of Eleanor de Trailly;¹ possibly she was a sister of Roger de Furnes and had obtained it as her marriage portion. 'The fee of Walter de Trailly', her husband, in Raunds, is mentioned during the lifetime of Roger de Furnes,² but on Walter's death in 1289 he had no fees in the county.³ Eleanor held it in 1314,⁴ and her descendants continued to hold it until 1398.⁵ Reynold de Trailly died in 1402 without heirs⁶ and the manor may have been acquired by Thomas Chamberleyn, who held twenty pounds' worth of land in Raunds in 1412.⁷

The Catlyn family, who held a manor called Furnells in Raunds in the 16th century, claimed descent from a daughter of Chamberleyn; she may perhaps be identified with Sara the wife of John Catlyn, whose great-great-grandson Robert⁸ died in 1588 seised of this manor, which he is said to have bought of John Parmenter; his heir was his son William, then aged 30.⁹ In 1631 William Catlyn, with Helen his wife and their son Robert, conveyed the manor to Sir Robert Ducie and Anthony Biddulph, who sold it to Judith Edwards.¹⁰ She settled it on her daughter Judith on her marriage to Roland Litton, who is mentioned about this time as a freeholder of Raunds, holding in right of his wife a parcel of the manor of Furnells and other lands late Catlyn's and previously Avenelles's.¹¹ In 1639 the Littons conveyed it to Dr. Thomas Winston, whose estates were afterwards vested in trustees by Act of Parliament and sold to Matthew Johnson.¹² The manor was acquired in 1675 by Sir William Langham, bart.,¹³ whose descendant, Sir Herbert Charles Arthur Langham, bart., is the present owner.



CATLYN. *Party cheveron-wise azure and or three leopards countercoloured and a chief argent.*

A manor called Furnells was held on lease from the Crown in 1649 for a rent of 18s. by John Ekins of Stanwick.¹⁴ It continued in the possession of the Ekins family at least as late as 1721, when Thomas Ekins and Elizabeth his wife dealt with it by fine.¹⁵ This seems to have been the site of the manor, without any manorial rights, and may be identified with the farm held by George Ekins in 1875.

Robert, who held one hide in Raunds of the Bishop of Coutances in 1086,¹⁶ also held lands in Barton Segrave and Cranford, where his successor, in the time of Henry I, was Geoffrey de Clinton the chamberlain.¹⁷ This freehold appears to have been held together with those lands as two fees until 1398.¹⁸ In 1402¹⁹ these fees were held by Richard Cloun (at Barton²⁰), the heirs of John Fosbrooke (at Cranford²¹), and the heirs of Sir John Trailly, this last portion being probably amalgamated with the Trailly manor.

COTES BIDUN. William, who claimed one hide and half a virgate from Geoffrey, Bishop of Coutances, in 1086,²² was probably William, the bishop's sewer, whose representative John, son of Halenath de Bidun, held 1½ hides and 1½ virgates in **COTES** in the reign of Henry I.²³ John de Bidun was the founder of the abbey of Lavendon (co. Buckingham), and married Alice sister of William Mauduit, the chamberlain, of Hanslope. He died in 1180 or 1181, leaving a son and heir John, who died in 1184. The overlordship of the fee was granted by King John to William Briwerre,²⁴ by whose grand-daughter and co-heir it was carried to the Wakes of Liddell, passing from them by marriage to the Earls of Kent.

The younger John de Bidun had been married to Maud daughter of Thomas fitz Bernard; she was only 10 years old in 1185, and afterwards married John de Rochford.²⁵ She died in 1254 and the property was divided among the representatives of the five sisters of John de Bidun.²⁶ Amice, the eldest sister, had married Henry de Clinton, and left three daughters: Amabel, who had married Luke de Colum and died childless; Isabel, who had married Ralf fitz John of Merston and died before 1254, leaving a son Henry; and Agnes the wife of Warin de Brageham, who was still living in 1254. Amabel the second sister of John de Bidun married Miles de Beauchamp and died before 1254, leaving a son Miles. The third sister, Sara, married Richard de Beauchamp and had three daughters: Isabel, who was still living in 1254; Maud, who had died, leaving as her heir a daughter Sara, wife of Robert de Walton; and Philippa, whose heir was her son John de Croxton. Maud, the fourth sister, married Geoffrey the son of Geoffrey; her representative in 1254 was her grandson, Thomas the son of Robert. Ermengard, the youngest sister, who was still unmarried in 1185, married before 1201 Aldulf de Gatesden, of Gaddesden (Herts.), and was holding half a fee in Newton and Cotes in 1242.²⁷ She left two sons, John and Richard; the elder, John, had died before 1254, leaving a son John.²⁸

John de Gatesden the younger married Hawise de Nevill, and died on St. Katharine's Day 1258, leaving as his heir his daughter Margaret.²⁹ She married Sir Ralph de Camoys and, secondly, Sir William Paynel;³⁰ but the John de Gatesden who seems to have acquired the whole of the Bidun manor in Cotes before 1284³¹ was presumably her cousin. In 1284 he is said to have held it of the Earl of Lancaster, and Newton Bromswold (in co-parcenary with Richard de Croxton) of the heirs of Baldwin Wake; but on his death in 1296 the jury found that the manor of Cotes was also held of John Wake.³² The heir of John de Gatesden was his daughter Joan the wife of Richard Chamberleyn, who had livery of her land in January 1292.³³ In 1314 Richard and

¹ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* v, 538, p. 344.
² *Hund. R.* (Rec. Com.), ii, 10.
³ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* ii, no. 791.
⁴ *Ibid.* v, no. 538, p. 344.
⁵ *Cal. Fine R.* ii, 250; *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 18 Ric. II, no. 43; 22 Ric. II, no. 46.
⁶ *V.C.H. Beds.* iii, 176, 243.
⁷ *Feud. Aids.* vi, 497. A moiety of the manor of Emberton (Bucks.) had been granted to him and his wife Sara in 1379 by Katharine, widow of John the brother of Sir Richard Chamberleyn and great-grand-daughter of Robert de Tolthorpe, to whom Thomas de Furnes and Eleanor had granted it: *De Banco R.* 452, m. 225; 610, m. 107.

⁸ Metcalfe, *Visitations of Northants.*
⁹ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), cclviii, no. 95.
¹⁰ Bridges, *Northants.* ii, 186.
¹¹ Finch-Hatton Deeds (*penes* Northants. Rec. Soc.), 3454.
¹² Bridges, loc. cit.
¹³ *Ibid.*; Feet of F. Northants. Mich. 27 Chas. II.
¹⁴ Duchy of Lancaster Parl. Survey, no. 58.
¹⁵ *Cal. S.P. Dom.* 1658-9, p. 54; Feet of F. Northants. Hil. 6 Anne; Trin. 7 Geo. I.
¹⁶ *V.C.H. Northants.* i, 309.
¹⁷ *Ibid.* 389.
¹⁸ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* v, 538, p. 344; *Chan.*

Inq. p.m. 18 Ric. II, no. 43; 22 Ric. II, no. 46.
¹⁹ *Ibid.* 4 Hen. IV, no. 41.
²⁰ *V.C.H. Northants.* iii, 177.
²¹ *Ibid.* 187.
²² *V.C.H. Northants.* i, 309.
²³ *Ibid.* 376; Farrer, op. cit. i, 1.
²⁴ *Ibid.* 4.
²⁵ *Rot. de Dom.* (Pipe R. Soc.), 43, 45, 49, 55.
²⁶ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* i, 323.
²⁷ *Bk. of Fees*, 935.
²⁸ *Ibid.*; Farrer, loc. cit.
²⁹ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* i, 454, 706.
³⁰ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* lv, 31-2.
³¹ *Feud. Aids.* iv, 14.
³² *Cal. Inq. p.m.* iii, no. 20, p. 12.
³³ *Ibid.*; *Cal. Fine R.* i, 302.

Joan settled Stanbridge (Beds.), one of the manors of Joan's inheritance, on their son John, upon his marriage to Joan the sister of John Morteyn of Tilsworth.¹ On Joan's death John Chamberleyn married a second wife Aubrey, and in 1324 made a settlement on his son Richard and Margeret Richard's wife.² Richard Chamberleyn was knighted before 1346; when, being a widower, he married Katharine de la Dale.³ She died childless, and he married a third wife, Joan, by whom he had a son Richard, who died in 1396, seised of a third part of the manor called Chamberleyn's Place in Cotes. He left a widow, Margaret, who afterwards married Philip St. Clair, and died in 1408. Her son Richard Chamberleyn was her next heir, and the next heir also of his grandmother Joan, who died in 1410.⁴ This Richard Chamberleyn was twice married; by his first wife, Elizabeth, he had a son Richard, who died childless in 1439, and by the second, Margaret, another son, William, who was heir to his half-brother.⁵ The elder Richard, however, seems to have mortgaged the manor of Cotes to John Green, who granted it on 31 December 1432 to John Gryffon and William Aldwinkle.⁶ William Lenton, kinsman and heir of William Aldwinkle, in 1471 released to Richard son of William Chamberleyn all his right in Cotes and Raunds.⁷ Richard Chamberleyn married Sibyl daughter of Sir Richard Fowler, Chancellor of the Exchequer to King Edward IV.⁸ and died in 1496 seised of the manor of Cotes called *CHAMBERLEYN COTES* or *MILNE COTES*, worth £6 and held of the Earl of Kent as the twentieth part of a knight's fee. He left four sons, Edward, William, Thomas, and John, and one daughter Anne.⁹ Edward, his heir, sold the manor in 1530 to Robert Dormer,¹⁰ from whom it was bought by Sir William Fitzwilliam of Milton. Sir William died on 9 August 1535, having bequeathed his property in Cotes, Ringstead, and Raunds to his second son Richard,¹¹ whose son John sold it in 1559 to John Pickering.¹² It subsequently followed the descent of the manor of Tichmarsh (q.v.) until 1629, when Sir John Pickering died seised, leaving as his heir his son Gilbert;¹³ but its subsequent descent is obscure.

Another manor of *COTES* was held in 1620 by Sir Francis Harvey, together with the rectory of Raunds; he settled the property on his son Stephen on his marriage in that year with Mary daughter and heir apparent of Richard Murden. Sir Francis died at Northampton 2 August 1632, his heir being his grandson Francis the son of Stephen and Mary,¹⁴ who died 30 September



CHAMBERLEYN. Gules a chevron between three scallops or.

1643, leaving as his heir his brother Richard, aged 19 on 8 January 1645.¹⁴ Richard Harvey dealt with the manor of Cotes and rectory of Raunds by fine in 1647,¹⁵ but its subsequent descent has not been traced.

In the early part of the reign of Henry I Frumbold of Denford held of the fee of Denford in Cotes and Knuston.¹⁶ This holding seems to have passed to the Normanvill family who also held the eighth part of a fee in Raunds of the honor of Peverel. In 1226 Nicholas de Normanvill and Margery his wife granted one acre and half a rood of land in Raunds to Jolan de Chelveston, to hold of them and the heirs of Margery.¹⁷ Nicholas was dead in 1231, when Margery his widow brought an action against Peter son of Peter de Irchester concerning land there.¹⁸ Geoffrey de Normanvill is mentioned later as having been formerly in possession of the freehold in Raunds;¹⁹ but Ralf the grandson of Nicholas and Margery had succeeded to it by 1284.²⁰ He was knighted before 20 November 1285, when he claimed Roger of Knuston and William his brother as his villeins and fugitives; but subsequently he confirmed a charter concerning them made by his grandparents to the Master and Brethren of St. Bartholomew's, Smithfield.²¹ He, or his heir and namesake, held the fortieth part of a fee in *WYLWEN-COTES* of the honor of Gloucester at the death of Gilbert de Clare in 1314;²² and the eighth part of a fee in Raunds, said to have been formerly in the possession of Geoffrey de Normanvill, was afterwards held by Sara the widow of Ralf's son Ralf;²³ but its descent after her death becomes obscure.

In 1395 two freeholds in Wilwencotes, representing $\frac{1}{10}$ and $\frac{1}{10}$ of a fee respectively, were said to be in the hands of Richard Chamberleyn,²⁴ but three years later it was stated that the fortieth part of a fee was held by John Wolf.²⁵ In 1413, however, Richard Chamberleyn died seised of two freeholds in Cotes held of the Earl of Stafford, as well as of $\frac{1}{4}$ of a fee with a watermill²⁶ held of the same earl in Wilwencotes and the manor of Chamberleyn Cotes held of the Earl of Kent.²⁷ From this it would appear that both the Normanvill holdings had passed to Richard Chamberleyn and were regarded as forming part of his other property in Cotes.

In the 12th century Richard fitz Gilbert (de Clare) held $1\frac{1}{2}$ hides and a small virgate in Cotes of the fee of Denford.²⁸ This seems to be the origin of the manor of *MIDDLE COTES*, which was held of the honor of Clare down to 1428.²⁹ Its early history is obscure³⁰ and it first appears by that name in 1274. The Hundred Rolls³¹ of that year contain references to the men of Henry de Abbotesle in Little Cotes; the fee of Geoffrey Berdefeld in Cotes; and the men of Henry le Scot (*Scoticus*) in Cotes—none of which names occurs here in other records. They also mention the men of Oliver Bydun and Simon de Cotes³² in Middle Cotes. In 1314

charge of having raised the mill pond at Wylewat to the injury of men using the ford by Richard Chamberleyn's mill: Assize R. 632, m. 24.

²⁷ Chan. Inq. p.m. Hen. V, file 3, no. 33.

²⁸ *F.C.H. Northants.* i, 377.

²⁹ *Feud. Aids.* iv, 46.

³⁰ In 1242 a quarter fee in Cotes was held of the honor of Clare by Roger de Deneford and John: *Bk. of Fees*, 933.

³¹ Op. cit. ii, 10.

³² Simon's wife Sara had property in Raunds in 1260 (*Feet of F. Northants.*, file 43, no. 470) and may have been the Sara, grand-daughter of John de Bidun, who was wife of Robert de Walton in 1254: see above.

¹ *F.C.H. Beds.* iii, 433.

² *Cal. Fine R.* ix, 212; *F.C.H. Beds.* loc. cit.

³ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* viii, 620. See Wollaston.

⁴ *F.C.H. Beds.* iii, 433; Chan. Inq. p.m. Hen. V, file 3, no. 33.

⁵ *F.C.H. Beds.* loc. cit.

⁶ Chan. Inq. p.m. 17 Hen. VI, no. 31.

⁷ Close, 11 Edw. IV, m. 15.

⁸ Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), xi, 4.

⁹ Bridges, op. cit. ii, 190.

¹⁰ Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), lviii, 3.

¹¹ Feet of F. Northants. East. 1 Eliz.

¹² Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), cccclvi, 84.

¹³ *Ibid.* dccvii, 45, 50.

¹⁴ *Ibid.*

¹⁵ Feet of F. Div. Co. Hil. 22 Chas. I.

¹⁶ *F.C.H. Northants.* i, 377.

¹⁷ Feet of F. Northants., file 20, no. 174.

¹⁸ Farrer, op. cit. i, 262.

¹⁹ *Feud. Aids.* vi, 569.

²⁰ *Ibid.* iv, 14.

²¹ Norman Moore, *Hist. of St. Bart.* 3, i, 501, 502.

²² *Cal. Inq. p.m.* v, 538, p. 344.

²³ *Feud. Aids.* vi, 569.

²⁴ Chan. Inq. p.m. 18 Ric. II, no. 43.

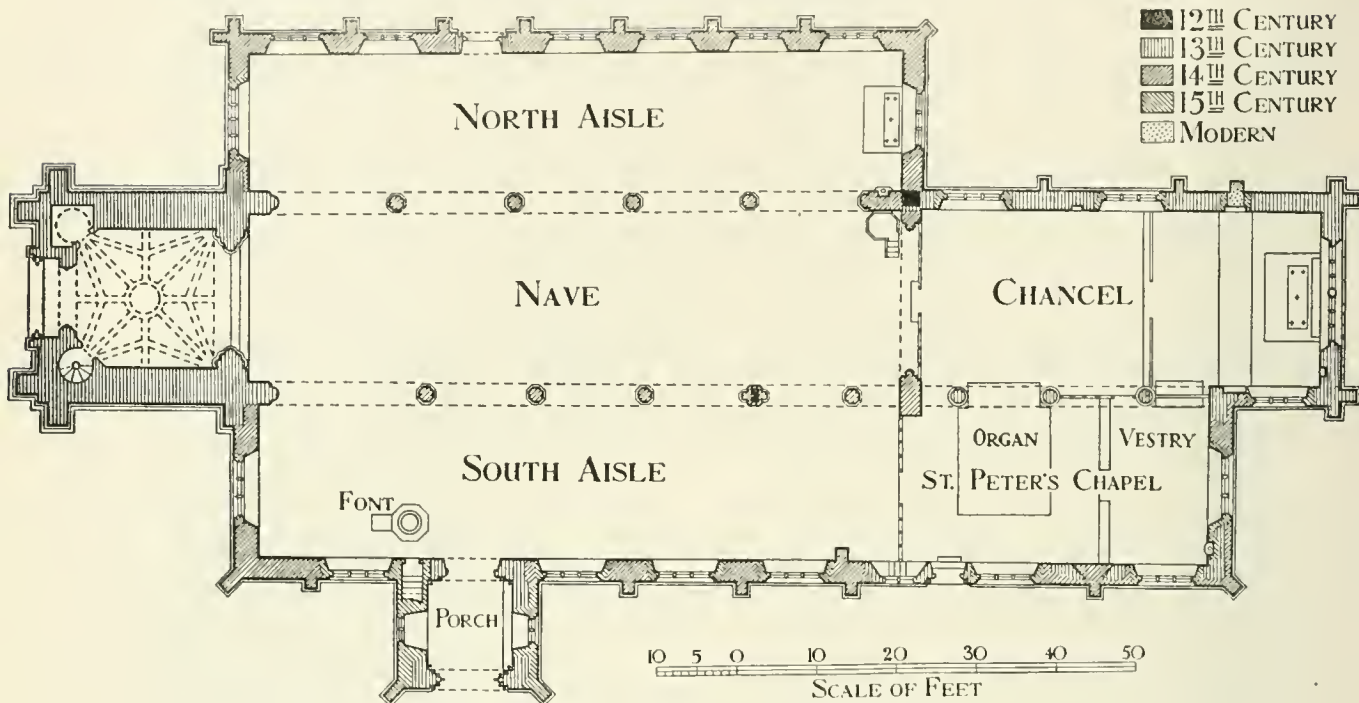
²⁵ *Ibid.* 22 Ric. II, no. 46. He was 'brother' of John de Normanville; see under Knuston.

²⁶ A mill belonged to the manor of the Bishop of Coutances in 1086. In 1329 the Abbot of Crowland was acquitted on a

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a half fee in Middelcotes was held jointly by Maud daughter of Nicholas de Segrave and Richard 'Bydom' of the Earl of Gloucester.¹ This is referred to in 1373 as 'formerly of Maud daughter of Nicholas de Segrave',² and was held in 1386 and 1403, as a half fee, by Richard Chamberleyn with Wylwencotes.³ In 1398, however, Sir Henry Green was holding it of Sir Thomas Green,⁴ who presumably held of Chamberleyn, and in 1428 Sir Simon Felbrigge, who had married Ralf Green's widow, held half a fee in Middle Cotes, formerly of Green and Bidun.⁵ After this date

which probably ended in a line with the first pier (from the west) of the south arcade. The chancel arch occupied the same position as now, with a short chancel to the east, and transepts adjoining it on the west side. Of this 12th-century structure nothing remains except some portion of the south wall above the present arcade, in which, over the second arch from the west, are four voussoirs belonging to a round-headed window; the rest of the wall is covered with plaster, but is probably of the same period, and the square masonry plinths of the piers of both arcades appear to be portions of the



PLAN OF RAUNDS CHURCH

this fee was probably absorbed into the other property of the Greens and passed to the Earl of Peterborough.

The church of *ST. MARY* stands on *CHURCH* high ground at the north end of the town and consists of chancel, 50 ft. by 21 ft. 6 in.; south chapel, 36 ft. by 20 ft.; clerestoried nave, 81 ft. 3 in. by 20 ft. 9 in.; north and south aisles; two-storied south porch; and west tower 17 ft. 3 in. square, with tall broach spire. The north aisle is 17 ft. 2 in. wide and the south aisle 19 ft. 2 in.; the width across nave and aisles being 63 ft. All these measurements are internal. There was formerly a two-storied sacristy on the north side of the chancel near the east end.

The walling is of rubble masonry throughout with ashlar parapets and low-pitched leaded roofs. The parapets of the nave and chancel are surmounted by a low embattled moulding and are continued along the gables; those of the aisles are plain, and the porch is battlemented. The roofs of the south aisle and chapel are continuous.

The existing fabric is in the main of 13th-century date, but has developed⁶ from an aisleless 12th-century building, apparently cruciform in plan, the nave of

12th-century walls through which the later arches were cut. Evidence of a north transept is wanting, the whole of the arcade on that side having been reconstructed, but on the south side the fourth pier from the west, which consists of a straight piece of wall with a half-column or respond supporting the arch on either side, indicates the position of the west wall of the transept, the east wall of which was in line with the chancel arch. About 1230 the tower and spire were built clear of the west end of the 12th-century fabric, with responds for the arcades of a new nave to be erected subsequently, but before this was proceeded with the chancel was rebuilt on an extended plan, with a chapel on the south side. This work was begun about 1240, the south wall of the chapel (St. Peter's) being probably set out first in line with the end wall of the transept, and with a view to continuing it westward. The south arcade of the chancel appears to have been begun from the east end with a similar intention, and the remains of early buttresses below the plinth of the existing south wall (both of the chapel and at the east end of the nave aisle) suggest the beginning of a wall, the buttresses and window spacing of which were abandoned for a new

¹ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* v, p. 344.

² *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 46 Edw. III, 1st nos. 62.

³ *Ibid.* 18 Ric. II, 43; 4 Hen. IV, 41.

⁴ *Ibid.* 22 Ric. II, 46; 1 Hen. IV, 15.

⁵ *Feud. Aids*, iv, 116.

⁶ The theory of the development of the

plan of the church here put forward is based on notes supplied by Professor Hamilton Thompson.

plan. It seems fairly clear that the arcade was not taken beyond the chancel arch, but for the time being was finished with a half-arch against its south abutment, west of which the old arch to the south transept was retained, though the transept itself by this time had been merged into the incomplete aisle. All this work, which included the chancel on its present plan with the existing great east window and buttresses, was completed about 1260, and it was only about 1300 that the south arcade of the nave was proceeded with. The presence of 13th-century work in the porch, however, makes it possible that the south aisle had been completed westward before this time. The building of the south arcade was begun at the west end with a wide arch from the tower respond to the first pier, covering the space between the tower and the old west wall of the nave, which was now taken down. Between this and the portion of wall which marked the opening to the transept, the space was treated as three equal bays, a short piece of the wall being retained with a respond on its west side: the old transept arch, however, was taken down and a new chancel arch was made, and a fifth pier, octagonal in section like those farther west, was inserted, with a half-arch corresponding to that on the opposite side of the abutment, which was now rebuilt. All this work, including the existing south aisle walls, appears to have been completed in the early part of the 14th century, the south chapel walls being remodelled rather later.¹

The erection of the north aisle in the 14th century was a simpler matter. The north transept being taken down the new aisle was set out without regard to its position, the arcade being planned in five more or less equal bays from a new respond—probably corresponding to the east respond of the old transept arch—to the 13th-century respond next the tower, while the aisle wall was set out in seven bays, incorporating a 13th-century doorway removed from the old north wall. This work probably followed that on the south side at no very great interval, and the outer walls may even have been in progress together, but the south arcade, with its hesitating and irregular construction, is the beginning of the work which the north arcade probably concluded.

About 1400 the nave was new roofed and a clerestory added, followed shortly by the heightening of the chancel walls with clerestory windows on the south side. The 15th century also saw the rebuilding of the porch in its present form, with upper room, the introduction of a vault in the lower stage of the tower, and the insertion of new windows in the side walls of the chancel, and in the south chapel and aisle.

In comparatively modern times² the original low-pitched roofs of the aisles were altered to lean-to roofs by raising the outer covering of the portion next the nave, but without disturbing the interior framing, and

in 1826 the top of the spire was rebuilt following injury in a storm.³ In 1860 the chapel of St. Peter was thrown open to the church, having previously served as the village school. In 1874 the nave was restored by Sir Gilbert Scott, a west gallery being removed and the tower arch exposed: the restoration of the chancel followed in 1878.⁴

Though much altered in the 15th century, the chancel is in the main of the period 1240–60. The great east window is somewhat advanced in design. It is of six trefoiled lights with simple geometrical tracery, shafted jambs and master mullion dividing the lights into two groups, each group with a sub-head filled with three quatrefoiled circles, and a large octofoiled circle above forming a centre-piece: the window was reconstructed in 1900, and its soffit cusping restored.⁵ The buttresses facing east are gabled, but the others slope back at two levels. On the south side the chancel projects about 14 ft. beyond the chapel and is lighted by a tall four-centred 15th-century window of three lights with two embattled transoms and vertical tracery. The north wall is divided externally into three bays by buttresses, the two western bays being occupied by 15th-century windows of three cinquefoiled lights and double transoms, resembling those on the south side but differing in detail. The eastern bay was formerly covered by a two-story 15th-century sacristy, the four-centred doorway of which is now blocked by a buttress: the upper room had a window opening into the church. A keel-shaped string runs round the chancel inside at sill-level, and in the usual position in the south wall, below the window, is a plain moulded piscina, the bowl of which is mutilated. Two feet farther west is a second piscina with trefoiled head and fluted bowl, and immediately west of this again a single trefoil-headed sedile with crocketed canopy. In the north wall, between the windows, is a large rectangular aumbry with modern door, breaking the string, and below the westernmost window a small rectangular low-side opening, probably 14th century, now blocked.⁶ There is another aumbry in the east wall south of the altar, now covered by panelling.

The arches of the chancel arcade are of two chamfered orders springing from circular piers with moulded capitals and bases, and at the east end from a moulded corbel.⁷ The 14th-century chancel arch, which as already stated divides the western bay into two half arches, is of two moulded orders on moulded responds with capitals and high bases, and the south abutment forms a large buttress of two stages: towards the nave each hollow moulding of the arch is enriched with ball-flower ornament, and there is a hood-mould on each side. There is evidence of the later insertion of a tympanum with rood-group above.⁸ The heightened south wall of the chancel is pierced by four square-headed

¹ The south-east window seems to be late 14th century.

² Some time before 1849: *Chs. Archd. N^oton*, 56.

³ It was struck by lightning 31 July 1826, when about 30 ft. was thrown down, doing much damage to the roof of the church; *ibid.* 53. The spire was injured in a storm in January 1895, and 11 ft. had to be rebuilt. It was entirely renovated in 1923.

⁴ There was a further restoration of the chancel in 1900. The porch was restored in the same year.

⁵ The window is figured in Sharpe's *Decorated Window Tracery*, plate 9, as it existed in 1849, the circles being without

cusps. After the engraving had been made Sir Gilbert Scott ascertained that the circles were grooved for soffit cusps, which had slipped out or been removed, and the grooves filled up with cement. The cusplings of the lower lights, being solid, had remained; *ibid.* 36, 62. The window is 23 ft. 9 in. high by 16 ft. 3 in. in width.

⁶ *Assoc. Arch. Soc. Reports*, xxix, 442. The opening is 22½ in. by 11 in., and is 3 ft. 8 in. above the ground outside.

⁷ The first arch from the east is not a complete arch, the springing of the eastern arc being stilted. The shape of the arches suggests a rather later date than the piers. Part of the head of a blocked pointed

opening over the first pier from the east offers certain difficulties. Perhaps the walls of the 13th-century chancel were begun at the west end before the idea of a south chapel was proposed, and a window made which was useless when the aisle scheme was taken in hand. The wall is plastered on the side facing the chapel.

⁸ Vertical chases under the hollow of the eastern order show where the timber upright quarters of the tympanum were fixed, and horizontal cuts, on the north and south, interrupting the label above the arch, indicate where a transverse beam was fixed to support the bottom ends of the uprights. The upper part of the arch was

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clerestory windows of two cinquefoiled lights, but on the north the wall is solid. The roof and parapets are modern.

The lower part of a 14th-century oak rood-screen remains below the chancel arch, with solid tracery panels and moulded rail:¹ the screen crossed the south aisle, and the lower steps of the stairway to the loft remain, uncased, in the sill of the window in the outer lateral wall.

The chapel of St. Peter still retains some of its 13th-century walling and a good south doorway of that period of two chamfered orders, the outer on shafts with foliated capitals and moulded bases. The north jamb of an original window remains at the east end, and in the south wall, between the later windows, are the jambs of another window² now blocked and covered by a buttress. The inserted windows are of three lights, that at the east end with segmental head, double transoms, and vertical tracery, both tiers of lights being cinquefoiled: the two windows in the south wall east of the doorway are four-centred,³ with simple tracery and without transoms, and farther west is a tall square-headed two-light window without tracery or hood-mould.⁴ In the east wall, south of the former altar, is an elaborate piscina with trefoiled head, crocketed label and finial, and bowl with twelve flutings. The east end of the chapel is now partitioned off as a vestry: the organ in the western part. The roof is modern.

The south arcade of the nave consists of five and a half bays with arches of two chamfered orders without hood-moulds on octagonal piers with moulded capitals and bases. Reference has already been made to the compound pier between the first and second full bays from the east, the core of which belongs to the 12th-century fabric, and to the 13th-century west respond which, like that of the north arcade, is half-round in section. The capitals of the piers vary considerably in detail and in the three western arches the voussoirs are alternately of ironstone and freestone: elsewhere freestone alone is used.

The more regularly spaced north arcade has octagonal piers and arches similar in type to those opposite but with hood-moulds, and the piers are less in diameter⁵ with capitals all of one pattern: the eastern respond follows the section of the piers.

The 13th-century south doorway is of two chamfered orders, the outer on shafts with moulded capitals and bases and the inner continued down the jambs below moulded impost. The large three-light west window of the south aisle is a modern reconstruction,⁶ but may reproduce one of 15th-century date: in the south wall are four two-centred three-light windows of this period with tracery of a different type. The porch (10 ft. 4 in. by 11 ft. 3 in.) has a 13th-century outer doorway of three chamfered orders on triple shafts with moulded capitals and bases: it was refaced and altered when the chamber was added in the 15th century, and has diagonal angle buttresses and four-centred side-windows of two trefoiled lights, and a similar window

over the doorway lighting the chamber. The 13th-century porch was vaulted, but only the angle-shafts and the lines of the wall-ribs remain: the shafts have moulded capitals and bases, and behind those at the north end is a line of dog-tooth ornament. The 15th-century oak ceiling has moulded beams, and access to the chamber is by a stairway in the thickness of the west wall, entered from the aisle by a four-centred doorway. The embattled parapet was renewed in 1900. On the south-west buttress is a scratch dial.

The 13th-century north doorway is of two chamfered orders, the outer on shafts with moulded capitals and bases, the capitals, like those to the south doorway, having plain bells: the label has headstops. Except for the doorway, the north aisle is of the 14th century, with a large inserted four-light window at the west having restored vertical tracery. The other windows are all of three cinquefoiled lights with excellent geometrical tracery,⁷ and there is a moulded string at sill level breaking round the two-stage buttresses. At the east end of the aisle in the usual position⁸ is a piscina recess with mutilated fluted bowl.

The nave clerestory has on each side seven four-centred windows of two trefoiled lights with pierced spandrels, and a plain string-course at sill level within.

The nave and south aisle retain their late-14th- or early-15th-century low-pitched oak roofs, with moulded principals, curved struts, and wall-pieces resting on octagonal wooden shafts with moulded capitals and bases, supported by corbels; the traceried spandrels are considerably restored. The roof of the north aisle is of the same period but plainer, the wall-shafts being omitted.

The beautiful west tower is of four stages, with moulded plinth, coupled buttresses set well back from the angles, and shallow porch covering the west doorway, as at Higham Ferrers. On the north and south sides the short bottom stage is quite plain and the two middle stages are arcaded, but the west front is more elaborately treated. The bell-chamber windows are the same on all four sides and the tower terminates with a corbel table of notch-heads from which the spire rises. The vice is in the south-west angle.

The west porch has a richly moulded outer arch on triple nook-shafts with moulded capitals and bases, the outer order dying out into square jambs and the hood-mould terminating in notch-heads. On each side, between the porch and the corner buttresses, is a moulded wall arch of two orders, the outer being two-centred and the inner of trefoil form ornamented with dog-tooth, springing from foliated corbels. The inner doorway is of four moulded orders and label, the outer order carried on plain corbels and the others on triple shafts with moulded capitals and bases. The porch is shallower than that at Higham Ferrers and its narrow⁹ pointed barrel vault is quite plain: there is a stone bench on each side.

Above the porch is an arcade of four arches, the two middle ones of two chamfered orders and the outer with

thus blocked and on the west was plastered flush with the east wall of the nave, the upper half of the hood-mould (now again complete owing to restoration) being cut away to make a smooth unbroken surface for the rood-group. These alterations took place in the latter half of the 15th century: *Arch. Journ.* lxi, 477. The rood is referred to below.

¹ Portions of the 14th-century rood-

screen are preserved in a glazed case in the vestry.

² At sill level is part of a keel-shaped string.

³ The hood-mould of the easternmost window has grotesque stops.

⁴ It may be a 13th-century window heightened.

⁵ The piers of the south arcade are 25 in. diam., those of the north 22 in.

⁶ *Chs. Archd. N'ton* (1849), 57, where it is described as modern, 'a bad imitation of some old one'. It has a four-centred ogee-head and vertical tracery.

⁷ The tracery of the east window is a later insertion.

⁸ In the return wall to which the east respond is attached.

⁹ It is 2 ft. wide.



RAUNDS CHURCH: THE TOWER, FROM THE SOUTH-WEST



RAUNDS CHURCH: THE CLOCK DIAL



RAUNDS CHURCH: INTERIOR, LOOKING EAST

trefoiled inner order, all on shafts with foliated capitals and moulded bases. The middle arches form a west window of two lancet lights, and below the outer ones are moulded and cusped quatrefoil openings lighting the landings at either end of a gallery or passage in the thickness of the wall. The end spandrels of the arcade are occupied by sculptured figures playing musical instruments, that to the south very much weathered, the other representing a lute-player. The middle spandrels have heads within small sunk quatrefoil panels. Internally the west window is of great beauty: it is in reality two windows, with inner and outer openings divided by the wall passage,¹ the inner plane of tracery (which originally was visible from the nave, below the tower arch) being treated with an elaboration of detail in marked contrast to the outer lancets. The arches are of two hollow-chamfered orders on shafts with foliated capitals and moulded bases, the inner order being of trefoil form and richly ornamented with foliage in the hollow. The hood-mould forms a kind of single trefoil arch thrown over the two lights, but also following the curve of each, the spandrel or space thus formed being filled with a moulded quatrefoiled circle. The lower part of the window, to a height of 5 ft. 10 in., is now blocked by the wall supporting the floor over the 15th-century vault, and only the upper part can be seen from within the tower.²

In the third stage facing west is a beautiful two-light window of two chamfered orders on triple jamb-shafts with moulded capitals and bases, and a square head with trefoiled lintel. The window is set under a tall gable, or pediment, with a half-gable on either side, which form a series of diagonal moulded ribs across the face of the tower between the buttresses, the intervening wall spaces having sunk quatrefoil panels. The wall is reduced in thickness above the diagonal ribs, which thus perform the same function as a simple set-off in work of a plainer nature.

On the north and south sides the arcades of the second stage consist of four arches, and that of the third stage of five, all of two chamfered orders, on triple shafts with moulded bases, the capitals in the lower arcade being foliated and in the upper moulded. There are other variations in detail. On the north side the arches of the lower arcade are subdivided, with carved corbels supporting the inner arches and with a head in the spandrels thus formed. The spandrels of the arcades are variously treated: on the north the three middle ones have heads set in quatrefoil panels, our Lord in the centre, the two ends being occupied by figures playing pipe and tabor (east) and viol (west), the latter holding the bow in the left hand. On the south there is a figure playing a harp in the eastern spandrel, but the others have cusped trefoils only.

In the upper arcade there are no shafts at the angles and the middle arch is pierced with a square-headed two-light window with moulded mullion and trefoiled

lintel. Except for a single trefoil side, on the south the spandrels are plain. The third stage arcade occurs also on the east face of the tower, where the lower part is now below the roof and seen from the nave above the tower arch.

The bell-chamber stage is the same on all four sides: it has an arcade of two wide and two narrow (end) arches of a single chamfered order and hood-mould, on shafts with moulded capitals and bases. Set within the two wider arches are coupled lancet windows of two chamfered orders with solid spandrels and shafts with moulded capitals and bases.

The tower arch is of three chamfered orders with hood-mould, on half-round responds with two attached shafts on each side, all with moulded capitals and bases. Above it is the table of the high-pitched 13th-century roof, and within it, filling the space above the springing, an inserted low segmental arch covering the 15th-century vault, the ribs of which meet in a circular eye-hole. Upon the surface of the lower arch are the remains of a painted clock dial, recording twenty-four hours, supported by kneeling angels, behind which are smaller figures of the donor and his wife, John and Sarah Catlin.³ The floor of the tower is three steps below the level of the nave.

The spire has low broaches, plain angles, and two sets of gabled openings on the cardinal faces, with a single set on the alternate faces ranging with the upper tier: all the openings are of two lights with forked mullions. The total height of tower and spire is 180 ft.

The once ample furniture of screens has been cut up and shifted so recklessly that it is no longer possible to assign all the fragments to their proper places.⁴ In Bridges's day the east end of both aisles was 'parted off by a screen', that in the south aisle having 'paintings in eight different squares with inscriptions underneath relating to the history of Joseph'.⁵ These screens appear to have been in existence till early in the 19th century, and the cornice on which the story of Joseph⁶ was painted survived till 1837, but was then apparently under the chancel arcade, where parts of the screens, much restored, have been set up below the two eastern arches. That under the easternmost arch is of 15th-century date and has six traceried openings and moulded cornice which still retains traces of colour.⁷ The other is a century older, with four traceried openings divided by shafts,⁸ and above it, in place of a cornice, a length of 13th-century oak trefoil 'arcading', which for years lay in the porch chamber.⁹ A late-14th-century screen, removed from the westernmost arch when the present organ was erected, now stands between the south chapel and the south aisle of the nave, the whole of the lower part and the doorway being new.¹⁰ Tracery and cresting from other 14th-century screen work is now made up into a reredos at the east end of the north aisle, and a portion of a screen dated 1701, formerly in the tower arch under the organ gallery, is preserved in the vestry.

¹ Access to the passage, or gallery, which is 2 ft. 10 in. wide, is from the vice. There appears to have been formerly a stair also in the north-west angle up to this level.

² There is an engraving of the window as it originally appeared in Rickman's *Gothic Arch.* (7th ed.), 118.

³ The dial was uncovered in the restoration of 1874. In 1849 it was described as a circular panel, the margin of which projects and has within it a shallow hollow moulding filled with flat-round pellets or

plates': *Chr. Archd. N'ron*, 62. At that time the west wall of the nave was concealed by an organ and gallery. The hands of the dial are now driven by a clock put up in 1903. ⁴ *Arch. Jour.* lxi, 477.

⁵ *Hist. of Northants.* ii, 186.

⁶ Sketches of the subjects are in the British Museum, Add. MS. 32467, ff. 220-1. They represent (i) Joseph's dream of sun, moon, and stars; (ii) Israel rebuking Joseph; (iii) Joseph's brethren preparing to sell him; (iv) Joseph in prison; (v) Pharaoh taking Joseph from

prison; (vi) Preparing for famine; (vii) Visit of his brethren; (viii) The brethren at table with Joseph. There is also a view of the church in 1721 (f. 219), and another in 1807, Add. MS. 37411, f. 10.

⁷ It stands above a table tomb.

⁸ The missing shafts have been replaced by new ones made out of bell-frame oak.

⁹ It consists of thirteen small trefoil 'arches' cut in the solid on modern shafts. Some other fragments of 13th-century woodwork are preserved in the vestry.

¹⁰ *Arch. Jour.* lxi, 477.

A HISTORY OF NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

The font has already been described.¹ It has a short octagonal late-14th-century² pyramidal cover with a finial of four united heads.

The wooden pulpit³ and seating are modern, but in the chancel are ten old bench-ends. The 17th-century communion table⁴ is still in use and the altar rails are of the same period. The altar of the chapel at the east end of the north aisle has front and ends of carved 17th-century panelling from elsewhere, a recent gift to the church.⁵

During the restoration of 1874 a fine series of wall-paintings was uncovered over the north arcade, in the north aisle, and over the chancel arch. Above the chancel arch are white blank spaces⁶ where the upper part of the rood and the figures of Mary and John stood against a red ground. The lower part of the rood and figures extended downwards on to the area of the now demolished tympanum. The background is powdered with circles containing the sacred monogram and that of the Virgin, and on the south side is a group of albed angels, each holding an instrument of the Passion: the corresponding group on the north side is obliterated.

The other paintings bear no relation to the architectural divisions of the building, three subjects filling the space over the north arcade from the first (west) to the middle of the fifth bay. Over the two western arches is a strongly drawn representation of the Seven Deadly Sins, or Pride and her six daughters, in which a richly-clad female in crown and robes of state and sceptre in each hand, stands over the jaws of hell (between the springing of the arches). From her body issue six winged beasts, or demons,⁷ three on either side, each vomiting a figure symbolizing one of the sins and each attended by a familiar spirit. On the left of the picture is a figure of Death thrusting a long tilting spear into the heart of Pride. Above the second pier is St. Christopher,⁸ and east of this, from the middle of the third to the middle of the easternmost arch, is a representation of the Three Living and the Three Dead:⁹ the colours are faded and some of the outlines lost, but the groups are drawn with vigour. Over the north doorway is a nearly obliterated St. George and the Dragon, and the legend of St. Katharine formerly covered the walls at the west end of the aisle. The

latter, originally in monochrome outline only, was painted over in colours, probably as late as the 16th century: the pictures, though much defaced, have been identified.¹⁰

Under the easternmost arch of the chancel arcade is the table tomb of John Wales, vicar (d. 1496), the longer sides each with four trefoiled panels enclosing blank¹¹ shields suspended from roses, and the east end against the wall. The top is quite plain, and at the west end are two panels with shields differing in shape. Along the verge on the north and west sides is the inscription: HIC JACET DNS IOHES WALES¹² QUONDAM VICARIE ECLESIE: CIVIS ATE PFCIETUR DEUS 1496 OB DIE 1A 2.3.

On the south side of the chancel is a floor-slab with the brass figures of John Tawyer (1470) and Margaret his wife, with the symbols of the evangelists in the corners, a group of four daughters, shield,¹³ and inscription.¹⁴ Near it is a slab with a precisely similar female figure,¹⁵ arms as before, a group of four sons, and symbols of St. Matthew and St. Luke, but without inscription.¹⁶ On the north side of the chancel is a floor-slab with the indent of a large floriated cross and inscription, both of which were missing in Bridges' day.¹⁷

In the south chapel is a blue floor-slab with inscription¹⁸ to Robert Gage (d. Feb. 1616), and in the north aisle a mural monument with brass inscription to William Gage, of Magilligam, Ireland (d. 1632), with shield of six quarterings.¹⁹ On the east wall of the chancel is a brass tablet in memory of William Holmes, vicar (d. 1653).

A brass chandelier in the nave was given in 1762 by William Brooks. Two 13th-century coffin-lids with floriated crosses are preserved in the church, one at the east end of each aisle.²⁰

Amongst the relics in the south chapel are eight pieces of town armour, c. 1630, parts of three incomplete suits, consisting of two breastplates, one back plate, three taces, and two pikemen's pots. The breastplates are ornamented with a raised pattern and rivet-heads: the pots are damaged.²¹ There is also the large hexagonal tester of an 18th-century pulpit, and various fragments of stone and woodwork, including cusping from the east window, four bosses from the roofs, pieces of wall-plate, and a roof corbel dated 1697.

¹ *V.C.H. Northants.* ii, 146, where it is ascribed to the 12th century. In addition to the ram's head on the west side, there is a single triangular, or chevron ornament facing south-east.

² Or made up from woodwork of this period.

³ In memory of the Rev. Charles Porter, vicar, d. June 1877.

⁴ The table stands on four fluted baluster legs, and bears the inscription 'The gift of Gilbert Negouse who was buried the 2 of August 1630'.

⁵ By Mrs. Sartoris, of Rushden Hall, together with some plainer wall panelling of the same period.

⁶ 'In the white surface of the spaces may be seen the holes, some plugged, in which the stays were imbedded for holding the large figures in position': *Arch. Jour.* lxi, 477.

⁷ Over each is a scroll, on which was written the name of the sin depicted—avarice, anger, envy, sloth, gluttony, lechery. Pride has crisped hair in short curls and a languorous, contemptuous expression.

⁸ The saint is depicted as an old white-haired bearded man; he crosses the stream, in which fish are shown between his feet,

leaning upon his staff and bearing the Child upon his shoulders.

⁹ The three Kings and their company go forth with hawk and hound from a castle gate and are encountered by three grim skeleton figures sent to warn them of their latter end. The castle gate forms the background of the picture and rabbits play in the foreground. The figures are more than life size.

¹⁰ The identifications are as follows: (i) St. Katharine rebukes the Emperor at a pagan sacrifice; (ii) she disputes with the doctors before the Emperor; (iii) the doctors, converted by her words, are thrown into the fire, and their miraculous escape; (iv) Porphyrius, the Emperor's sword-bearer throws himself at the saint's feet as a believer; (v) lost; (vi) martyrdom of St. Katharine, the executioner preparing to cut off her head; (vii) the saint's tomb surrounded by angels. The last two are on the west wall, on either side of the window, the others on the north wall west of the doorway.

¹¹ One of the shields in the south side has a cross cut on it.

¹² The W in Wales is inverted. The arms were 'all totally defaced' in Bridges'

day, 'except a cross fleury in one of them': op. cit. ii, 187. The date is in arabic numerals. John Wales was instituted 4 July 1477.

¹³ [Azure] a bend [argent] with three voided lozenges [gules] thereon, for Raunds, to which family Margaret Tawyer belonged (see p. 30).

¹⁴ The brass was moved here from the south chapel in 1906. The inscription reads 'Of yo' charite pray for the soules of John Tawyer & Margaret his wyfe which John deceased the xxv day of Janyver in the yere of our lord mccccclxx on whose soules Jhu have mercy'.

¹⁵ There is the indent of a man's figure.

¹⁶ Bridges records the figures of four sons and five daughters on this slab, but the figure of the man and the inscription had disappeared: op. cit. ii, 188.

¹⁷ The slab was then near the altar rails, in the middle of the chancel: *ibid.*

¹⁸ Given in Bridges, op. cit. ii, 188.

¹⁹ Inscription and emblazonment, *ibid.*

²⁰ That in the south aisle is coped, 8½ in. thick, with plain cross: the other is 5 in. thick and has a floriated cross.

²¹ *Assoc. Arch. Soc. Reports*, xxxvi, 93-4, where the armour is fully described.

Within the tower are preserved two long fire-hooks.

There are eight bells. The first and second are by Taylor of Loughborough 1897, the fourth by Henry Penn of Peterborough 1723, the third, fifth, and sixth by Thomas Eayre of Kettering 1732, the seventh by Warner 1878, and the tenor by Taylor 1898.¹

The plate consists of a silver cup of 1697, a bread-holder of 1865, a chalice of 1870, two patens, one of 1871 the other without marks, and a glass flagon with silver mountings 1865.² Two pewter flagons stamped with the name of Robert Ekins, churchwarden in 1612, are now used at the font; another pewter flagon and two alms dishes are among the relics in the vestry. There is also a pewter basin.³

The registers before 1812 are as follows: (i) baptisms 1581-1661, marriages 1581-1657, burials 1583-1660; (ii) baptisms and burials 1662-1701, marriages 1663-99; (iii) baptisms 1699-1779, marriages 1700-73, burials 1699-1778; (iv) baptisms and burials 1779-1812; (v) marriages 1774-1812.

In the churchyard to the south-east of the porch is the socket and small piece of the shaft of a late 14th-century cross, on two square steps. The upper step is ornamented with a band of quatrefoil panels enclosing crosses of varying shapes, while the square shaft has pilaster bands at each angle and emblems of the evangelists on the sides.⁴

The right of presentation to the *ADVOWSON* church of Raunds was apparently attached to the manor belonging to William Peverel. In 1237 William Earl of Ferrers brought an action of *darrein presentment* concerning Raunds and Higham against the Prior of Lenton and Abbot of 'Torinton', and it was found that King Richard had last presented, and that King John had afterwards given the manors and advowsons to William de Ferrers, Earl of Derby.⁵ The advowson of Raunds remained attached to the manor until 4 March 1355, when the king licensed Henry Duke of Lancaster to alienate it in mortmain to the Master, Warden, and chaplains of the Hospital of the Annunciation of the Virgin in Leicester, founded by his father, Henry Earl of Lancaster.⁶ The grantees received a licence to appropriate the church and a further licence to retain the gift in free alms was granted when the hospital was erected into a collegiate church.⁷ At the Dissolution the right of presentation came to the Crown, which retained it until 1874, when

it was acquired by exchange by the Bishop of Peterborough.⁸

By his will dated 7 February 1722 *CHARITIES* John Blaise gave 5 a. 1 r. of arable land, and 2 r. lying in Ringstead Short Meadow, to the vicar for the poor. Upon the inclosure of the parish an allotment of 18 acres was awarded in lieu of the arable land. The land in Ringstead Short Meadow is let in allotments and produces 10s. 4d. yearly and the 18 acres, which is pasture land, is let on a yearly tenancy for £10 14s. 6d. The income is distributed in coal.

An allotment of about 10 acres was set out on the inclosure of the parish for the repair of the church. The property consists of 9 acres called Keyston Road Field let at £4 10s. per annum and 1 r. 16 p. let in allotments and producing 17s. yearly. The income is applied to the fabric fund of the church.

In or about 1720 Robert Nicholls surrendered a cottage in the Middle End or Rotten Row in Raunds to the vicar in trust for the poor. The property was sold in 1880 and the proceeds amounting to £180 invested, producing £4 11s. yearly in dividends. The charity is now administered by the vicar, a trustee appointed by him, and one trustee appointed by the parish council of Raunds. The income is applied partly in coal to the poor and partly in donations to the Northampton General Hospital.

By his will proved in P.R. 24 May 1856 the Rev. James Tyley gave a sum of money for the benefit of the deserving poor at the discretion of the vicar and churchwardens. The dividends, amounting to £2 13s. 4d. yearly, are distributed in coal at Christmas to about thirty recipients.

The charity of William Mackenzie, founded by will proved at Peterborough 28 September 1917, is administered by a body of four trustees in accordance with the provisions of a Scheme of the Charity Commissioners dated 20 May 1921. The income, amounting to £12 13s. 2d., is distributed equally at Christmas amongst about twenty-five aged poor.

The several sums of Stock are with the Official Trustees of Charitable Funds.

This parish has an interest in Sawyer's Almshouses in the parish of Chelveston-cum-Caldecott, as one of the inmates must have been a resident of Raunds for at least three years.

RINGSTEAD

Ryngestede (xiii-xv cent.); Wringsted (xvii cent.).

The parish contains 2,021 acres, of which 16 are covered by water, the land being mostly under grass. It lies between Denford and Woodford on the north and Raunds on the south on the eastern bank of the Nene, which separates it from the Addingtons, and whose windings form its western and (for some distance) its northern boundary lines, the ground in its

neighbourhood being liable to floods, and the whole parish lying somewhat low.

The Northampton and Peterborough branch of the L.M.S. railway runs through the parish near its western boundary and has a station about a mile west of the village. Near the station is Millcotton, described as a demolished hamlet by Bridges, who considered that a square entrenchment with a moat here was Roman, a view not now held.⁹ It was here that the manor of

¹ North, *Ch. Bells of Northants.* 389, where the inscriptions on the old bells are given. The seventh and tenor are recastings of bells by Eayre dated 1732.

² Markham, *Ch. Plate of Northants.* 247. The chalice, paten, and flagon were given in 1872 by the children of Charles Porter, vicar.

³ Kept in chapel at east end of north

aisle in 1927.

⁴ *Assoc. Arch. Soc. Reports*, xxiii, 189. Also (reprinted) in Markham, *Crosses of Northants.* 99. The total height is 9 ft. 11 in., of the shaft alone 3 ft. 8 in. The emblem of St. Matthew is represented as a bird with a human face. The cross has at one time been clumsily restored, in doing which the upper step was

reduced in size by cutting out half a panel on each face: Lee, *Hist. of Raunds*, 23.

⁵ *Bracton's Note-Book* (ed. Maitland), 1236. The nature of the claim of the Abbot of Thornton (?) does not appear.

⁶ *Cal. Pat.* 1354-8, pp. 184, 185.

⁷ *Ibid.* 1358-61, p. 486.

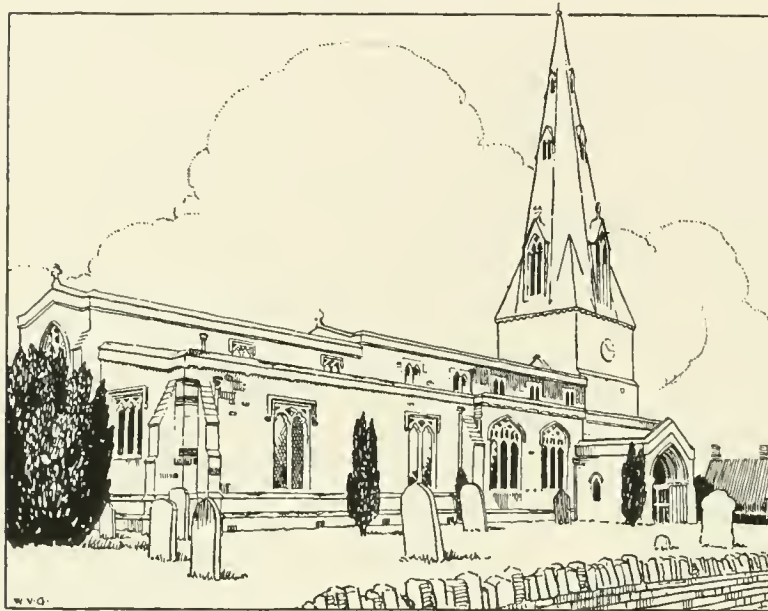
⁸ Order in Council, 7 July 1874.

⁹ *J.C.H. Northants.* i, 194.

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Millcote (or Cotton) was situated, and an inclosure near by called Chapel Close is referred to by Bridges as the site of the chapel.¹ Ringstead Mill, now disused, is also near the station.

The road from Thrapston to Bedford crosses the parish from north to south. The village, which is large and irregular, is $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles south of Thrapston, and lies in the northern half of the parish along a road branching west from this road, from which Gladstone Street and Spender Street branch east. When Bridges wrote, it housed about fourscore families. The population of the whole parish has increased from 454 in 1801 to 916 in 1931.



RINGSTEAD CHURCH

The village has largely been rebuilt in brick but several 17th- and 18th-century stone houses remain. West of the church is a two-story block consisting of two dwellings, with good wind-break chimneys, and close by on the other side of the road a barn on which is a panel inscribed T. E. 1630 M. E. A thatched gabled house north of the church is dated 1641, and near the entrance to the village from Denford is a good end-gabled house with pantiled roof, alternate bands of freestone and ironstone in the end walls, and panel inscribed 1st D 1711. Another house in the middle of the village, though much restored, is dated 1712 with initials 1st M. L. and west of the church is a large 18th-century two-story house faced with ashlar, with drafted quoins, stone-slatted roof, and good lead-head, dated 1765.

A public elementary school (mixed) for Ringstead and Denford was built in 1867 and enlarged in 1874, and again in 1894. West of the church is the Methodist chapel, built in 1848, and the cemetery, consecrated in 1893. There is a Temperance Hall built in 1861, and a Village Institute built in 1908.

At the northern boundary of the parish is Ringstead Lodge. There are old stone quarries in the north-west,

and stone is quarried in many parts for buildings and roads. About 1,000 tons of ironstone were at one time turned out weekly at the works opened in 1871 by Messrs. Butlin, Bevan, & Co.² Bridges writes of 'good pits of red and white building stone, of which the red will best endure the weather'. Shoemaking is carried on by a large portion of the population. At one time the women made lace.

An Inclosure Act was passed in 1839. The soil is good agricultural land; the subsoil clay, ironstone, and gravel. The chief crops are wheat, beans, barley, oats, turnips, and roots.

No record of *RINGSTEAD* occurs in the Domesday Survey, and it was evidently included in the *MANORS* manor of Raunds (q.v.), of which manor a manor of Ringstead appears later as a member, and in Denford.

In the Northamptonshire Survey 33½ hides and ½ virgate were entered in this hundred and a half as in the demesne of William Peverel. His lands were forfeited for rebellion and granted by Henry II to William de Ferrers, Earl of Derby, the husband of his daughter and heir Margaret.³

On 14 September 1227 William de Ferrers, Earl of Derby, made a grant to the great Hubert de Burgh, Earl of Kent, and his fourth wife Margaret (the sister of Alexander II, King of Scotland), *inter alia*, of 12 virgates of land in Ringstead, with other lands in Stanwick, Caldecott, and Chelveston.⁴ In

1232, on the disgrace of Hubert, these lands were seized, but were restored to him later in that year.⁵ On 7 February 1233 directions were issued for their delivery to Robert Passelewe⁶ that he might out of the issues thereof make satisfaction to certain Roman and Italian clerics and others for injuries sustained by them at the hands of Hubert. A year later it was commanded that the manor of Ringstead should be delivered by Robert Passelewe to Margaret wife of Hubert de Burgh for her sustenance during the king's pleasure,⁷ but this order was cancelled, and they remained in the king's hands until June, when William de Ferrers, Earl of Derby, recovered possession.⁸ A grant of free warren in his manor of Ringstead was made in 1248 to William de Ferrers.⁹ He died in 1254, when 12½ virgates of land and 2 cottages in Ringstead were delivered in dower to his widow Margaret,¹⁰ who survived until 1281,¹¹ after which they passed with the other Ferrers estates to Edmund the king's brother, Earl of Lancaster,¹² and the overlordship descended with Higham Ferrers (q.v.). The Hundred Rolls of 1274-5 show that the bailiffs of the Earls of Gloucester had in 1274-5 for sixteen years past been appropriating payments and services due

¹ The chapel of the Holy Trinity in the vill of Middelcotes is mentioned in 1252: Assize R. 915, m. 13 d.

² Whellan, *Hist. of Northants.* 925.

³ G.E.C. *Peerage*, iv, 194.

⁴ *Cal. Chart. R.* i, p. 60.

⁵ *Cal. Close*, 1231-4, p. 166.

⁶ *Ibid.* 188.

⁷ *Ibid.* 1231-4, p. 378.

⁹ *Cal. Chart. R.* p. i, 332.

¹⁰ *Chan. Inq.* p.m. 29 Hen. III, no. 31.

¹¹ G.E.C. *Peerage*, iv, 201.

¹² *Cal. Close*, 1279-88, p. 85; *Plac. de Quo Warr.* 3 Edw. III, 580.

from tenants in Ringstead, Raunds, and Cotes, members of the manor of Higham.¹

The tenants in Ringstead from whom suit was thus appropriated were Robert Puntney and Richard Trayly;² the bailiffs had also withdrawn 10*d.* sheriff's aid owed by Richard de Ringstead, with 10*d.* for sheriff's aid from the fee of William Hay in Ringstead, and 2*s.* owed by the latter fee for view of frankpledge and vigils.³ William Barbedor (who in 1285 received a grant of lands and rents in the manor of Ringstead from Roger Barbedor for life)⁴ and Ralph Waldeshel in Ringstead and Stanwick were claiming assize of bread and ale.⁵

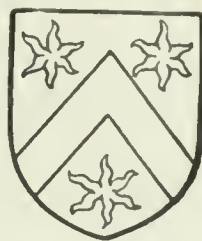
In 1284 one-eighth of a fee in Ringstead was held of the Earl of Lancaster by Henry the Scot,⁶ and this was presumably either the eighth of a knight's fee in Ringstead held in 1298 by John Andrew, or another eighth then held by Hugh de Ringstead, of the fee of Ferrers.⁷

About 1330 the eighth of a fee formerly held by 'John son of Andrew' was in the hands of Richard Chamberleyn,⁸ and this manor followed the descent of Denford (q.v.)⁹ until 1496, when Richard Chamberleyn died seized of 4 messuages and land in Ringstead, held of the Earl of Kent.¹⁰ The manorial rights seem by this time to have been absorbed in the Chamberleyn manor of Cotes.

Half a fee in Ringstead and Stanwick was held of the honor of Peverel in 1242 by Matthew de Iverny.¹¹ Between this date and 1260 the Earl of Derby enfeoffed William de Walda, who commuted the villein services in this manor for a payment of 20*s.* the virgate.¹² This half fee had evidently passed to William Barbedor and Ralph Waldeshel by 1275,¹³ and was apparently subsequently divided, Waldeshel taking the property in Stanwick (q.v.). A third of a fee which had belonged to Roger Barbedor was held, about 1330, by Roger Brown and Agnes daughter and heir of Walter Barbedor¹⁴ (presumably either Roger's wife or his mother). It was possibly acquired by Henry Green with the manor of Raunds (q.v.) about 1360, as in 1428 Sir Simon Felbrigge was holding, in right of his wife Katharine the widow of Ralph Green, a half fee in Ringstead and Stanwick formerly held by Ralph Waldeshel and John Brown.¹⁵ It then descended with Drayton (q.v.)¹⁶ until 1540, when John Browne, the son of Sir Wistan and of Maud daughter of William Mordaunt,¹⁷ with Audrey his wife, the third daughter and co-heir of Henry Vere of Addington,¹⁸ settled a third of the manor of Ringstead on himself and Audrey for life, then on George their son and heir and his wife Elizabeth, for life, with

remainder to Wistan, their third son.¹⁹ In 1558 George and Wistan conveyed this third to Sir John, Lord Mordaunt.²⁰ A third of the manor was in 1562 in the hands of Sir Humphrey Browne, who made a settlement of it on himself, with remainder to his son and heir George for life, then to Mary, Christine, and Catherine Browne, daughters of Sir Humphrey.²¹ George Browne died s.p., and in 1576 one daughter, Catherine Browne, suffered a recovery of a third of a third of the manor;²² and a recovery of another third of a third was suffered by John Tuf-ton, father of Nicholas Lord Tuf-ton,²³ who had married another daughter, Christine.²⁴ In the following year two-thirds of a third were dealt with jointly by John Tuf-ton and his wife Christine, and by Thomas Wilford and his wife Mary,²⁵ the eldest daughter of Sir Humphrey.²⁶ Catherine Browne, the third daughter and co-heir of Sir Humphrey married as her first husband Richard Townsend of Raynham in Norfolk and, as her second, William Roper, son and heir to Sir Thomas Roper of Eltham.²⁷ With her husband William Roper she was dealing with a third of a third of the manor in 1590.²⁸ Two-thirds of the manor of Ringstead were in the same year dealt with by Sir Lewis, Lord Mordaunt, and his wife Margaret,²⁹ whose son Henry Lord Mordaunt at his death on 13 February 1610 was seized of manors of Ringstead and Furnells in Raunds, &c.,³⁰ with which his son and heir John Lord Mordaunt was dealing in 1625.³¹ On this occasion and in 1649³² the description 'manor of Ringstead *alias* Furnells in Raunds' replaces the 'manors of Ringstead and Furnells in Raunds' used in 1610, and it was as the manor of Ringstead *alias* Furnells in Raunds that this manor then descended like Drayton with the earldom of Peterborough.³³

Four small virgates in Ringstead of the fee of Denford were returned in the Northamptonshire Survey as held by Gilbert fitz Richard, and descended with the Cotes fees among the possessions of the de Clares, Earls of Gloucester.³⁴ In 1262-3 William de Shardelewe and his wife Joan made a grant to Richard Trayly of Woodford of land in Thrapston, Denford, and Ringstead,³⁵ and in 1274-5 Richard Trayly was one of the tenants in Ringstead whose suit at the hundred courts and sheriff's tourn in the manor of Higham had been appropriated by the Earls of Gloucester: the service due from him in Ringstead in making part of the hedge of



MORDAUNT. *Argent a chevron between three stars sable.*

¹ *Hund. R.* ii, 10.

² Their interests were probably acquired by the Chamberleyn family; cf. Denford; *V.C.H. Northants.* iii, 193-4.

³ *Hund. R.* ii, 10.

⁴ Feet of F. Div. Co. East. 13 Edw. I, no. 11. ⁵ *Hund. R.* ii, 10.

⁶ *Feud. Aids*, iv, 14.

⁷ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* iii, 423; *Cal. Close*, 1296-1302, p. 168. Part of Ringstead at this time was a member of the manor of Raunds: *ibid.*

⁸ *Plac. de Quo W'ar.* (Rec. Com.), 580; *Feud. Aids*, vi, 568.

⁹ *V.C.H. Northants.* iii, 193.

¹⁰ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), xi, 4.

¹¹ *Bk. of Fees*, 933.

¹² Assize R. 616, m. 7 d.

¹³ *Hund. R.* (Rec. Com.), ii, 10.

¹⁴ *Feud. Aids*, vi, 568. Waldeshel and

Barbedor are here called heirs of William de Vaus (i.e. de Walde, or de Waldis, as he is called elsewhere).

¹⁵ *Ibid.* iv, 46.

¹⁶ Feet of F. Div. Co. Trin. 15 Hen.

VII; *ibid.* Hil. 27 Hen. VIII; Deeds

Enr. Trin. 29 Hen. VIII, no. 14.

¹⁷ *Vint. of Essex* (Harl. Soc.), 166.

¹⁸ *Ibid.*

¹⁹ Feet of F. Northants. Hil. 31 Hen. VIII.

²⁰ *Ibid.* Div. Co., Mich. 4 & 5 P. and M.

²¹ *Ibid.* East. 4 Eliz.

²² *Recov. R. Trin.* 18 Eliz. ro. 107.

²³ *Ibid.* ro. 120.

²⁴ *Vint. of Essex* (Harl. Soc.), 166.

²⁵ Feet of F. Northants. Mich. 18 &

19 Eliz.

²⁶ *Vint. of Essex* (Harl. Soc.), 166.

²⁷ *Ibid.*

²⁸ Feet of F. Northants. Trin. 32 Eliz.

²⁹ *Ibid.*

³⁰ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), vol. cccix, 200.

³¹ Feet of F. Div. Co. Trin. 19 Jas. I; *Recov. R. Hil.* 19 Jas. I, ro. 40.

³² Feet of F. Northants. Hil. 24 Chas. I.

³³ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), dccciv, 64;

Recov. R. Trin. 21 Chas. II, ro. 158;

Trin. 22 Chas. II, ro. 21; Mich. 23 Chas. II,

ro. 175; Hil. 1-2 Jas. II, ro. 62; Feet of

F. Northants. Mich. 23 Chas. II; Div. Co.

Hil. 1 & 2 Jas. II.

³⁴ In 1330 Hugh de Audley and Mar-

garet his wife, then holding the honor of

Gloucester, claimed free warren and other

rights in Ringstead; *Plac. de Quo W'ar.*

(Rec. Com.), 571.

³⁵ Feet of F. 47 Hen. III, Northants. file 47, no. 844.

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the park of Milton had also been withheld by the Earl's bailiffs.¹ Alice his daughter in 1292 granted property in Ringstead and Raunds to Master Robert de Kenilworth (Kynelyngworth),² and in 1314 among the knights' fees held by Gilbert de Clare, Earl of Gloucester and Hertford, at his death, was half a fee in Thrappston, Denford, and Ringstead, held of him by John Spigurnel, Niel de Kenilworth, and Simon de Greyland,³ who were still holding the same fee at the death in 1371 of Ralph Earl of Stafford.⁴ Hugh Earl of Stafford died in 1386 seised of fees in Thrappston, Denford, and Ringstead held under him by Sir Richard Chamberleyn, Alice Vere, Henry Petelyng, clerk, and Robert Duffyn.⁵ Edmund Earl of Stafford was returned in 1404 as having held at his death the same fees, then held of him by Richard Chamberleyn, Margaret Table, and Richard Duffyn.⁶ This half fee may be identical with the manor of *TRESHAMS*. A manor of Ringstead was included among the lands forfeited by Sir Thomas Tresham in 1461, and granted to John Donne, one of the ushers of the King's Chamber.⁷ The Treshams ultimately recovered possession of this Ringstead manor, and it was held in 1535 by Sir Thomas Tresham, who in that year with Isabel Tresham, his mother, widow of John Tresham, and Lord Mordaunt and his wife Elizabeth conveyed the manors of Raunds, Ringstead, &c., to Sir William Greystock and others, possibly for confirmation of title to the Fitzwilliams.⁸

Sir William Fitzwilliam of Milton, by whom it appears then to have been held, and who was the grandson of Sir John Fitzwilliam of Milton and of Eleanor daughter of Sir Henry Green of Green's Norton, bequeathed in his will dated 27 June 1533 his manor of Cotes, Ringstead, and Raunds, lately bought of Robert Dormer, esq., to his second son Richard, with contingent remainders to his sons William, Christopher, Francis, and Thomas.⁹ John Fitzwilliam, the son and heir of this Richard on 7 March 1559 entered into recognizances for the payment to John Pickering of an annuity of £10 yearly during the life of Elizabeth Fitzwilliam *alias* Knyvett his mother,¹⁰ and with his wife Brigit conveyed to the said John Pickering the manors of Ringstead, Cotes *alias* Cotton Chamberlyn, Myll Cotes, West Cotes, Mallard Cotes, and Cotes Bydon.¹¹ John Pickering and his wife Lucy were in 1565 holding the manor of Ringstead.¹² On 28 February 1613 half an acre of land in Ringstead and the regality, rents, and services of the manors of Millcotes and Treshams in Ringstead and Raunds were held at his death by Sir Gilbert Pickering,¹³ whose son John succeeded him and, as Sir John Pickering, died seised of the same at Mile End Green, Stepney, on 29 January 1629,¹⁴ when he was succeeded by his son Gilbert, a minor. From the Pickerings of Titchmarsh the manor passed to the Creeds of Oundle by the marriage of Elizabeth the only daughter of Sir Gilbert Pickering, bart. (d. 1668) with John Creed of Oundle who died in 1701.¹⁵ Three John Creeds of Oundle held the

manor in succession, and at the death of the last it passed to his only sister and heir Mary, the wife of Dr. William Walcote.¹⁶ She with her husband conveyed the manor in 1766 to Christopher Hobson and



PICKERING. *Ermine a lion azure crowned or.*



CREED. *Azure a chevron between three swans argent.*

John Cowper,¹⁷ who had been tenants since 1706.¹⁸ In 1768 they sold to Leonard Burton, esq., of Denford the manor of Ringstead, with fishery in the Nene, quitrents, courts leet, view of frankpledge, and lands and closes (described and tenures detailed) with arable lands, lay-grounds, &c., in the common and open fields of Ringstead, Raunds, and Denford, for £1,500,¹⁹ the purchase being completed in 1769.²⁰ The manor has since then remained in the Burton family. A moiety was held by Nathaniel Shuttleworth, esq., with Henry Shuttleworth junior in 1814, and appears to have represented the Cotes, Cotton, or Millcotes portion of Ringstead, as at the Inclosure Act of 1839 it was returned that Thomas Burton, esq., is or claims to be lord of the manor of Ringstead, and Henry Shuttleworth is or claims to be lord of the manor of Cotton *alias* Coates *alias* Ringstead Cotton in the said parish of Ringstead. In 1863 Thomas Burton was lord of Ringstead, and his trustees are still lords of the manor.²¹

The church of *ST. MARY* consists of *CHURCH* chancel, 33 ft. 6 in., with north chapel and vestry; clerestoried nave, 46 ft. 9 in. by 17 ft. 6 in.; north aisle, 12 ft. 6 in. wide; north and south porches, and west tower, 10 ft. 9 in. square, surmounted by a broach spire, all these measurements being internal. The chapel is a continuation of the aisle and extends nearly the full length of the chancel.

The building dates in the main from the first half of the 13th century, but it probably developed from an aisleless church, the nave of which covered the same area as at present. To this a north aisle and tower were added and a new chancel with north chapel built, but the church was considerably altered in the 14th century, when the chancel appears to have been lengthened about 6 ft.,²² the whole of the south wall rebuilt, the arch between the aisle and chapel removed, the chapel reconstructed, and a small vestry added to the east of it.²³ These changes seem to have taken place at two not very distant periods in the century, in each of which one of the porches was built: the clerestory also dates from

¹ *Hund. R.* (Rec. Com.), ii, 10.

² Feet of F. Northants. 20 Edw. I, file 56, no. 291.

³ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* iii, 423; *ibid.*, p. 344.

⁴ Chan. Inq. p.m. 46 Edw. III, 1st. nos., 62.

⁵ *Ibid.* 10 Ric. II, no. 38.

⁶ *Ibid.* 4 Hen. IV, no. 41.

⁷ *Cal. Pat.* 1461-7, pp. 111, 431.

⁸ *Recov. R. Hil.* 27 Hen. VIII, ro. 124. Feet of F. Northants. Hil. 27 Hen. VIII.

⁹ Exch. Inq. p.m. dxcvii, ii.

¹⁰ Close R. East. 1 Eliz. pt. 2.

¹¹ *Recov. R. Mich.* 1 Eliz. ro. 526; Feet of F. Northants. East. 1 Eliz.

¹² *Ibid.* Hil. 7 Eliz.

¹³ Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), cccxlii, 94.

¹⁴ *Ibid.* cccxlii, 84.

¹⁵ Inscription in Titchmarsh church: Bridges, *Hist. of Northants.* ii, 383.

¹⁶ *Recov. R. Hil.* 9 Geo. III, ro. 163.

¹⁷ Feet of F. Northants. Hil. 6 Geo. III.

¹⁸ *Recov. R. Hil.* 9 Geo. III, ro. 163.

¹⁹ *Ibid.*

²⁰ Feet of F. Northants. Hil. 9 Geo. III.

²¹ Kelly, *Directories, Northants.*

²² The base of the 13th-century south wall of the chancel, with chamfered plinth, remains below the existing wall but stops about 6 ft. from the east end.

²³ The aisle and chapel may have been widened at this time but, if so, much of the old material was re-used.

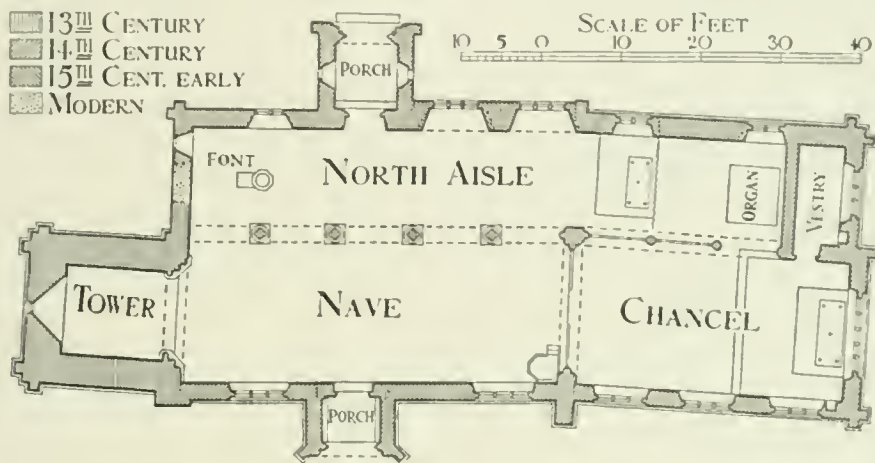
this time. Early in the 15th century the north wall of the aisle east of the porch was remodelled and two large windows inserted. There was a general restoration of the fabric in 1863.

The building is of rubble throughout plastered internally, and all the roofs are modern and of low pitch behind plain parapets.

The chancel is divided from the chapel by three pointed arches on cylindrical piers, while the nave is separated from the aisle by a loftier¹ arcade of five bays, the piers of which are formed of clusters of four attached shafts with moulded capitals and bases, all of the 13th century: the arches are of two chamfered

ternally 7 ft. 2 in. by 5 ft. 3 in. and has diagonal buttresses and an octopartite vault the ribs of which spring from roughly carved corbels. The outer arch has wave mouldings divided by casements, and the original high-pitched roof is covered with stone slates.

The 13th-century north doorway is somewhat more elaborate and the nook-shafts have capitals with good foliage: the hood-mould is stopped on the east side by a knight's head. The 14th-century porch, which measures internally 7 ft. 9 in. by 8 ft., has an outer arch of four moulded orders on nook-shafts, with a row of ball-flowers in the outer hollow and ogee hood-mould with finial: the gable and side walls have plain parapets.



PLAN OF RINGSTEAD CHURCH

orders and in the nave spring at the east end from a half-octagonal respond and at the west from a corbel. The wide chancel arch is of two chamfered orders on half-octagonal responds with moulded capitals and bases.

The chancel was reconstructed in its present form about 1320-30 and has a large five-light east window and three three-light windows in the south wall, all of which have curvilinear tracery of beautiful design:² the sills of the side windows are brought very low. The piscina and sedilia are both on one level and farther east is a double aumbry consisting of a trefoiled recess with another above it covering a shelf. At the east end of the north wall is the 14th-century doorway to the vestry,³ and below the arcade is the base of a stone screen which originally enclosed the chapel. There was formerly the base of a similar stone chancel screen also.⁴

Two windows of three trefoiled lights in the south wall of the nave, of similar type to those in the chancel but with different tracery, are very little later in date, but the wall is contemporary with the porch, a high moulded plinth being common to both. The doorway, however, is of the 13th century, with a plain arch of two orders springing from imposts with attached nook-shafts to the inner order; part of a scratch dial is built into the west jamb. The south porch measures in-

ternally 7 ft. 2 in. by 5 ft. 3 in. and has diagonal buttresses and an octopartite vault the ribs of which spring from roughly carved corbels. The outer arch has wave mouldings divided by casements, and the original high-pitched roof is covered with stone slates. The 13th-century north doorway is somewhat more elaborate and the nook-shafts have capitals with good foliage: the hood-mould is stopped on the east side by a knight's head. The 14th-century porch, which measures internally 7 ft. 9 in. by 8 ft., has an outer arch of four moulded orders on nook-shafts, with a row of ball-flowers in the outer hollow and ogee hood-mould with finial: the gable and side walls have plain parapets.

West of the porch is a 13th-century two-light window with a circle in the head, and high in the west wall a single-light window with flat ogee head. The two later windows east of the porch are of three cinquefoiled lights with four-centred heads. The square-headed two-light windows of the chapel have been restored. Internally, a corbel of the arch dividing the aisle from the chapel remains on the south side: the arch was probably removed in the last quarter of the 14th century, when the chapel windows were made, and the clerestory, a series of square-headed two-light openings, added on the north side of nave and chancel.⁵

The tower is of three stages with moulded plinth and two pairs of buttresses in the lower stage. It opens into the nave through a handsome 13th-century arch of three chamfered orders on attached shafts⁶ with moulded capitals and bases, and has a long and narrow west window like a lancet but with square top and unpierced arched head with good cusping. All three stages on the north and south sides, and the upper stage on the west are blank, and the tower terminates in a corbel-table of notch-heads from which the spire rises. There is no vice. Tower and spire are both of one build and are of remarkable design, the bell-chamber windows being omitted and their place taken by an unusually large lower set of gabled spire-lights,⁷ which

the nave windows have been restored.

⁶ The shafts are on the east side only.

⁷ These windows are of two lights separated by an octagonal shaft with moulded capital, within a pointed arch springing from jambs of two chamfered orders in the recess between which is an engaged shaft with moulded capital: *Chs. Archd. N'ton*, 68.

¹ The nave piers are 9 ft. 7 in. high and the average width of the arches is 7 ft. 5 in.: the piers stand on high masonry plinths. In the chancel arcade the piers are 7 ft. 2 in. high.

² The east window is figured in Sharpe's *Dec. Window Tracery*, plate 53. The arch is carried in the tracery over the two side lights and filled with three trefoils and

cinquefoils.³

³ The vestry is 5 ft. 8 in. wide from west to east. It has an east window of three lights. The doorway has a continuous swelled chamfer.

⁴ *Chs. Archd. N'ton*, 71. It bore evidence of having been of rich design.

⁵ There are five windows to the nave and two at the west end of the chancel:

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unite the tower and spire in a single composition. The broaches extend the full height of the lower openings. The spire has plain angles and two upper tiers of lights on the cardinal faces.¹

The font is of the early part of the 14th century and has a plain octagonal bowl with moulded under-edge and shafted stem: there is a rectangular recess cut at the north-west angle, probably for the fastening of the cover.

The pulpit and fittings date from 1863. A number of 18th- and 19th-century memorial tablets are grouped below the tower. In the nave is an early-18th-century communion table with curved legs. There were formerly traces of a wall painting in the vestry.²

A ring of six bells was cast in 1682 by Henry and Matthew Bagley, of Chacombe,³ four of which remain in the tower. The treble and fourth were recast by Gillett and Johnston in 1914, the old bells rehung and a clock erected.

The plate consists of a silver cup and paten c. 1682, a plated paten and flagon, and two brass alms dishes.⁴

The registers before 1812 are as follows: (i) all entries 1570-1639; (ii) 1665-1701; (iii) 1702-1745; (iv) 1745-95; (v) baptisms 1796-1812; (vi) marriages 1754-1812.

The church of Ringstead has always been annexed as a chapel to that of Denford, with which it was

held by the abbey of Chester until the Dissolution.⁵ In 1550 the joint rectory and advowson were leased by the Bishop of Coventry and Lich-
ADVOWSON field to Nicholas and Mary William-son,⁶ and since that date the advowson of Ringstead has descended with that of Denford (q.v.), the present patron being Captain Nigel Stopford Sackville.

The Ringstead Gift is administered **CHARITIES** by the incumbents and churchwardens and two other trustees in conformity with the provisions of a Scheme of the Charity Commissioners of 2 August 1864. This charity was formerly called the Charity Estate, but its origin is unknown. The property consists of 27 a. o r. 5 p. of land in Ringstead let to various tenants and producing in 1924 £44 16s. 4d.

The Scheme directed that three-fourths of the net income should be applied to educational purposes and the remaining fourth for the benefit of the deserving poor.

A sum of 16s. a year understood to have been given by a person named Wells is paid out of the Drayton Estate by Mr. William Dodson of Woodford Mill, Ringstead. This is applied as part of the Ringstead Gift.

RUSHDEN

Risdene (xi cent.); Risscheden, Rissendene, Rysshedene (xiii cent.).

The parish of Rushden, containing about 3,775 acres, lies to the south of Higham Ferrers with which the town is now continuous; and the town has a station on the Wellingborough and Higham Ferrers section of the L.M.S. railway, the nearest main line station being at Irchester, about 2 miles eastward. The town, which in 1881 was no more than a large village with 3,657 inhabitants, grew very rapidly during the last decade of the 19th century, the increase in the population between 1891 and 1901 being over 5,000. The census returns of 1931 showed that the number of inhabitants had then risen to over 14,200, this growth being due chiefly to the establishment of the boot-making industry.

The present rectory-house appears to have been built about 1870, and cannot therefore claim to be the birthplace of either of the two clerics of distinction who were born at Rushden. Daniel, the son of Thomas Whitby, born on 24 March 1638, when his father had been rector about seven years,⁷ afterwards became famous for his advocacy of the inclusion of non-conformists within the church and for his *Paraphrase and Commentary on the New Testament*. John Lettice son of the Rev. John Lettice and Mary daughter of Richard Newcombe, rector of the neighbouring parish of Wymington in Bedfordshire, was born on 27 December 1737.⁸ He lived to a great age, dying on 18 October 1832; but though 'greatly respected by his parishioners' at Peasmarsh, Sussex, for whom he wrote *The Village Catechist*, he is better known for his writings on secular

subjects such as travel, history, and antiquities, than for any contribution to theology.

The parish of St. Peter was formed 14 October 1913 from parts of the old parishes of Irchester, Irthlingborough, and Higham Ferrers, the church having been built in 1907. There is also a Roman Catholic church of St. Peter in the Higham road, which was opened in 1905. The Baptist chapel in Little Street was built in 1797 and is now used as a Sunday school, a newer chapel having been built in 1884 and enlarged in 1893. The Zion Baptist chapel in Station Road was built in 1800 and that in Park Road just a hundred years later. The Independent Methodists have a chapel built in 1889, with a mission chapel on the Wellingborough road established in 1901. There is another Methodist chapel in Fitzwilliam Street. The head-quarters of the Salvation Army are in Queen Street and the Church Army has a social centre built in 1920 on the Irchester road.

The town was governed by a local Board of Health from 25 March 1891 until the establishment of an Urban District Council under the provisions of the Local Government Act of 1894;⁹ it is lighted with electricity,¹⁰ and has water-works at Sywell, which were completed and opened in July 1906.

Rushden Hall stands almost in the centre of the town, near the church, and is a two-story building of various dates erected round a small rectangular courtyard, with the hall in the south range. The greater part of the house, which is of local limestone with red tiled roofs, appears to be of the 16th century, but has been much altered and modernized. The south front has project-

¹ The height of the tower to the sill of the lower windows is 40 ft.; the whole height of tower and spire about 85 ft. or 90 ft.: *ibid.* 68.

² *Chs. Archd. N'ton*, 71, where it is figured.

³ North, *Ch. Bells of Northants.* 391, where the inscriptions are given. On the new bells the old inscriptions have been retained.

⁴ Markham, *Ch. Plate of Northants.* 249.

⁵ *V.C.H. Northants.* iii, 196.

⁶ Close R. 1652, pt. 26, m. 4.

⁷ *Dict. Nat. Biog.*

⁸ *Ibid.* 56 & 57 Vict. c. 73.

¹⁰ Under the Electric Lighting Order Confirmation Act (2 & 3 Geo. V, c. 116).

ing gabled ends, mullioned and transomed windows, and a central two-story porch with battlemented parapet. The hall is wainscoted with black oak linenfold panelling and has a good four-centred arched fireplace. The east, or terrace front has also projecting ends with curved gables and two-story semicircular mullioned bay windows, and a similar one in the centre, all with battlemented parapets and ball ornaments.¹ It is now the property of the Urban District Council and the well-wooded grounds are a public park.

The soil varies from a stiff clay to a light sand; the subsoils are Oxford Clay, red marls, and Great Oolite, with belts of alluvium and Upper Lias along the course of the Neene, and a patch of inferior Oolite to the north of Rushden Hall. The chief crops are wheat, barley, and beans.

There was land for 12 ploughs, 30 acres *MANOR* of meadow, and a mill in *RUSHDEN* in 1086, and the manor was assessed at 6 hides in the Domesday Survey. It was one of the members of Higham Ferrers, though the Bishop of Coutances claimed the homage of the 19 socmen who held the land, on the ground that they had been Burred's men.² The manor afterwards followed the descent of Higham Ferrers (q.v.);³ but various leases of the demesne were granted by the Crown during the 16th and 17th centuries,⁴ and there are traces of corporate action among the tenants for the protection of their own interests. Several pleas were brought against the king's auditors in connexion with claims to exemption from suit at court and abatement of rent by the tenants jointly during the reign of Henry VII;⁵ and in 1551 John Purevey, who had obtained a lease of the demesne lands in the previous year, assigned 'all his estate, title, and interest in the manor' to trustees to the use of all the inhabitants of Rushden.⁶ One of the trustees, Robert Pemberton, was afterwards accused by John Maggetts and William Mayes of procuring a new lease under the seal of the Duchy of Lancaster in order to pervert the trust to his own use of all the meadows in Rushden which were parcel of the demesne. Pemberton in his answer admitted that John Purevey . . . 'by deed of 4 February 5 Edw. VI, in consideration of £10 paid to him by divers of the inhabitants, parcel of a common stock within the said town, and by special means of Sir Robert Tyrwhitt, did assure to the defendant and other persons all his estate . . . to the use of all the inhabitants'. He declared, however, that 'the said Inhabitants have ever sythens been quietly possessed and enjoyed the use of the demesnes'. The matter was presumably decided in favour of Pemberton, for he seems to have continued as trustee in a fresh lease made by Queen Elizabeth on 8 February 1582 for 41 years. On 23 December 1606 King James I let the demesne to Sir Peter Young for 31 years after the expiration of the lease to Pemberton and his co-trustees, but Young also demised his interest to the inhabitants, and it was only when this lease came to an end in 1654 that the property could be enjoyed by Robert Sanderson and Francis Gray who had bought it in fee before the survey of 1649.⁷

This survey contains an interesting memorandum about the customs of Rushden, and the composition

regarding the copyholders' fines made by the tenants with King James I:

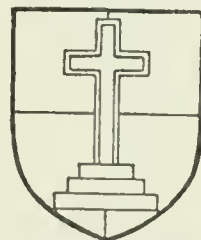
'The inhabitants on 28 November 1618 did compound with King James for £2165 19s. 10d. . . to make their fines upon Alienation or Descent certain, to uphold their ancient Customs, with liberty to inclose, with divers other privileges and freedoms as is at large expressed in the aforesaid decree. There are two Courts Leets every year at Michaelmas and at Lady day. The Court Baron is to be kept once every three weeks. . . There is a certain parcell of meadow within the parish of Arkellborow beyond Neene, which the bailiff is allowed for his labour to gather up; the lord's rent is valued at 23s. 4d. . . The Regalitie of the river Neene as far as the manor extendeth, namely from the lower end of the meadow called Symede to Ditchford Bridge, is leased out for this year at 10s.'⁸

The socage tenants, according to the custom, paid their rent at Michaelmas only; the customers and copyholders at Michaelmas and Lady Day. The distinction between the tenures was still observed when Bridges's *History of Northamptonshire* was written; the 'bornhold' or 'bondhold' land paying double rent and double fine to the Crown.⁹ The copyhold land, which in the 18th century was 'near $\frac{1}{5}$ of the lordship', descended according to the custom of gavelkind.¹⁰

The sale of the manor in fee to Robert Sanderson and Francis Gray, recognized in the Parliamentary Survey, does not appear to have taken effect, though as Gray seems to have been an ardent royalist¹¹ it might have been expected that his right at least would be recognized at the Restoration. The manor, however, was resumed by the Crown, and still forms part of the Duchy of Lancaster.

LENTON LANDS. One virgate of land was granted to the prior and convent of Lenton in Nottinghamshire, founded by William Peverel, with the advowson of the church,¹² and another half virgate was acquired by them in 1199 from Abel of Rushden.¹³ After the Dissolution the Lenton lands in Rushden seem to have remained with the Crown until 1609, when James I granted them with the parsonage to Robert Pemberton, who had already obtained the site of the manor.¹⁴ He was succeeded in the same year by his son Sir Lewis Pemberton, who was sheriff of Northamptonshire in 1621. The holding is described at this time as including the Parsonage with glebelands belonging to it of 21 acres, and one close called Monkes Close and 'halfe a Close over the back-wall of the Vicarage, besides hay';¹⁵ but the survey which was made for the purpose of a sale did not take in Sir Lewis Pemberton's 'Cheife house Called the Hall', said to be held of the Crown in socage.¹⁶

Although Rushden Hall was not among the lands thus put up for sale, both it and the parsonage were held by John Ekins during the Interregnum. He was the second son of Thomas Ekins of Irchester,¹⁷ and had



PRIORY OF LENTON. Quarterly or and azure with a cross Calvary or over all fimbriated and stepped sable.

¹ *Northants. N. & Q. ii* (N.S.), 49–54; at p. 53 is a view of house from the south-east.

² *V.C.H. Northants. i*, 287–8, 336.

³ Bridges, *Northants. ii*, 190.

⁴ Chan. Proc. (Ser. 2), bdle. 22, no. 19; Pat. 4 Chas. I, pt. xxxiv; 5 Chas. I, pt. xv; 24 Chas. II, pt. ix; Duchy of Lanc.

Parl. Survey, no. 56.

⁵ *Duchy of Lanc. Cal. to Pleadings*, i, 117, 121.

⁶ Chan. Proc. (Ser. 2), bdle. 122, no. 19.

⁷ *Duchy of Lanc. Parl. Survey*, no. 56.

⁸ *Ibid.*

⁹ Bridges, *Hist. of Northants. ii*, 190.

¹⁰ *Ibid.*

¹¹ See below.

¹² *Cal. Chart.* 1300–26, p. 316.

¹³ Feet of F. case 171, file 4, no. 3.

¹⁴ Pat. 6 Jas. I.

¹⁵ S.P. Dom. Chas. I, cccviii, 140.

¹⁶ *Ibid.*

¹⁷ M.I. in Rushden church.

inherited a freehold in Rushden from his mother Elizabeth, daughter and one of the heirs of John Page of Rushden and Alice his wife; she was married to Thomas Ekins in 1607.¹ Her younger sister Alice married, before 1625, Francis Gray, afterwards one of the purchasers of Rushden Manor. The sisters, or their husbands, quarrelled over the freehold; for Francis Gray asserted that 'the said John Page considering that the house wherein y^e said Thomas Eakyns did inhabit, which was not above 2 myles from y^e dwelling of the said John Page, was of better strength than the house of the said John Page, and that Thomas Ekyns did keep more persons in his family, did place in the dwelling house of Thomas a chest'. The key of this chest he gave in August 1622 to Francis Gray with some account of the contents; after his sudden death 'a writing purporting a feoffment' was missing, and Gray complained that he and his wife were 'like to be done out of their share'.²

John Ekins, the son of Thomas Ekins, in 1633 was prominent in the neighbourhood for his resistance to the payment of ship-money. On 27 March 1637 a nag belonging to him was taken by way of distraint and locked up in a stable at Raunds, but it was rescued the very same night. Francis Gray,³ on the other hand, took the unpopular side with a vigour which brought upon him the notice of Parliament. In 1642 it was alleged that he had procured a privy sessions of the peace to be held at Kettering to molest those who were well affected to the Parliament, because they had 'thrown down at Isham a cross which had on it a superstitious engraving which occasioned many gazers thereon'. He was also reported to have 'caused his servants to make great store of bullets to be employed against the well-affected, whom he called round-headed rogues'. A party of soldiers was sent to his house at Wellingborough to arrest him, and a full account of his attempted rescue by 'the common People (who seldom love or hate moderately),' is given in *Mercurius Rusticus*;⁴ but as the affectionate regard of his poorer neighbours resulted in the death of Captain John Sawyer, it cannot have improved his position with the authorities. He was imprisoned, and though allowed a certain amount of liberty at the end of nine months, was not fully discharged until 1645.

The site of the manor passed on the death of John Ekins to his son Thomas Ekins, who was seised of it in 1677. It remained, after his death in that year, for some time in the possession of his family. John Ekins, who was in occupation of it in Bridges' time, was also steward of the manor for the Crown;⁵ but Rushden Hall is said to have passed shortly afterwards to Lord George Germaine.⁶ Early in the 19th century it was sold by Thomas Fletcher to Thomas Williams,⁷ but, as the purchaser lived near Dorchester, the Fletchers continued to occupy the house.⁸ John Fletcher was still living there in 1838, but about 1849 the Hall passed into the possession of Mr. F. V. Sartoris,⁹ from whom it passed to Mr. Herbert Sartoris, being subsequently acquired by the Urban District Council.

One-sixth of a knight's fee in Rushden was held of

William de Ferrers in 1242 by Henry de Billing,¹⁰ who with his wife Wymare had acquired lands here from Sara, daughter of Warin le Falconer in 1222.¹¹ This Warin may perhaps be identified with Warin the son of Nicholas who acquired a virgate in Rushden in 1219.¹² 'The heir of Henry de Billing', who was in possession of a quarter of a knight's fee in Rushden in 1284,¹³ was perhaps Cecily the wife of Henry le Sauvage; she, with her husband, quitclaimed two virgates to John Brabazon in 1290.¹⁴ William Brabazon had a freehold in Rushden in the time of Edward III, assessed at $\frac{1}{40}$ of a fee only, and held at an earlier date by Ralf de Punchardon,¹⁵ of whom there is apparently no other record here. By 1428 it had passed into the hands of John Basset, whose land, though described as $\frac{1}{16}$ of a fee, is stated to be that formerly held by William Brabazon,¹⁶ but after this date the descent becomes obscure. It is just possible that this holding may be identified with the freehold which belonged at the end of the 16th century to John Page and afterwards descended to his daughters Elizabeth, the wife of Thomas Ekins, and Alice, the wife of Francis Gray;¹⁷ and if so it probably became merged in the property attached to the site of the manor.

Land in Rushden was given by Warin le Falconer to the hospital of St. James outside Higham (to which no other reference appears to have been found), but part of it was unjustly alienated by William Bunch, the predecessor of John, who was master in 1284.¹⁸

A mill, rendering 10s., was one of the appurtenances of the manor in 1086.¹⁹

The church of *ST. MARY* consists of *CHURCH* chancel, 38 ft. by 16 ft. 6 in., with north and south chapels its full length; north and south transepts; clerestoried nave of three bays, 54 ft.²⁰ by 19 ft. 6 in.; north aisle, 14 ft. wide; south aisle, 11 ft. 6 in. wide; north and south porches, and west tower, 14 ft. square, with tall stone spire. All these measurements are internal. The width across nave and aisles is 50 ft. 6 in. and across the transepts 85 ft. 6 in., the north transept projecting beyond the aisle 20 ft., the south transept 14 ft. 6 in.; both transepts are 20 ft. wide. The extreme internal length of the church is 113 ft.

The building is faced with rubble and has low-pitched leaded roofs throughout. The parapets are of ashlar, those of the transepts and porches plain, but elsewhere battlemented. The walls are plastered internally, except at the west end of the nave and in the south chapel.

The ground-plan of the church is almost entirely of the later part of the 13th century, but the building underwent various changes in the two following centuries, assuming its present aspect about 1500. The nave arcades seem to have been rebuilt about the middle of the 14th century, and the tower and spire are a little later, but apparently the tower replaced an earlier one and when it was erected the old nave roof was lowered and a clerestory added. The south porch also dates from the 14th century. The existing clerestory and the

¹ Chan. Proc. (Ser. 2), bdle. 353, no. 9.

² Ibid.

³ He was Clerk of the Peace for the county.

⁴ It has been transcribed, and printed in *Northants. N. & Q.* (N.S.), i, 251. The affair was also described in a letter by Lord Northampton, which has been printed in Warburton's *Prince Rupert and the*

Cavaliers, ii, 84.

⁵ Bridges, *Northants.* ii, 193.

⁶ Cole, *Higham Ferrers* (1838), 201.

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ *Northants. N. & Q.* (N.S.).

¹⁰ *Bk. of Fees*, ii, 933.

¹¹ Feet of F. Northants., file 17, no. 86.

¹² Ibid. file 15, no. 35.

¹³ *Feud. Aids*, iv, 14.

¹⁴ Feet of F. Northants., file 56, no. 267.

¹⁵ *Feud. Aids*, vi, 569.

¹⁶ Ibid. iv, 46.

¹⁷ Chan. Proc. (Ser. 2), bdle. 353, no. 9.

¹⁸ Assize R. 619, m. 19.

¹⁹ *V.C.H. Northants.* i, 336.

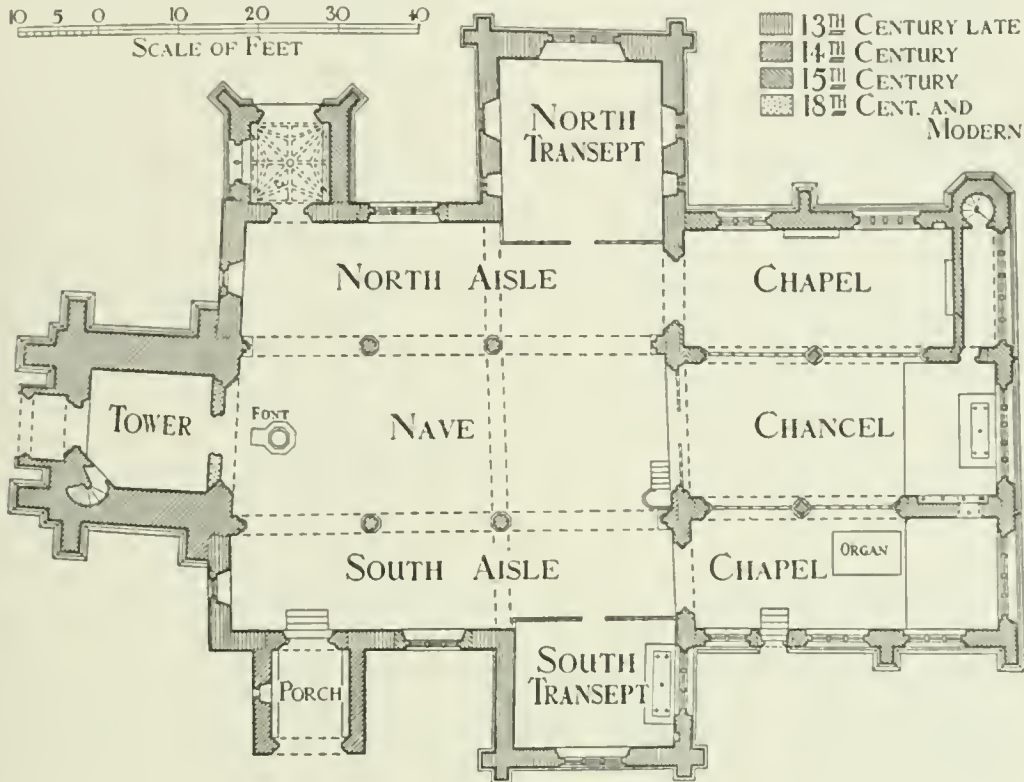
²⁰ Length on north side 52 ft. 6 in., on south 55 ft., owing to the deflexion of the axis of the tower.

strainer arch between the nave and crossing of the transept are of the early 15th century, while the north and south chapels of the chancel are a late-15th-century rebuilding and probable enlargement of earlier chapels which involved also the rebuilding of the chancel arcades. To the 15th century also belong the north porch, windows in the aisles, the east window of the south transept, the roofs of the nave and aisles and the parapets throughout. The church was restored in 1872.

Externally the whole of the east end of the building is of late-15th-century date, except the 13th-century

cusped lights, with a quatrefoiled circle in the head, flush with the face of the wall and repeated towards the aisle, or chapel; this opening is without glass lines and appears to have been always an internal feature, but some alteration in position may be suspected.

The chancel arcades have four-centred arches of two orders separated by casements, on piers consisting of four attached shafts with hollows between, and moulded capitals and bases. The two arches on the north side, which open to the Lady Chapel, are considerably wider than those opposite and both orders are moulded, the



PLAN OF RUSHDEN CHURCH

priest's doorway in the south chapel, which is of a single continuous chamfered order with hood-mould. The chancel roof is lower than that of the nave, and the chapels have high lean-to roofs, making a long straggling battlemented gable across the whole of the unbroken east front. The chancel has an elaborate four-centred east window of five cinquefoiled lights, with battlemented transom, vertical tracery, and crocketed hood-mould with figure stops and finial carried up the middle merlon of the parapet to a now empty canopied niche. To the north of the altar is an image-bracket and cinquefoiled canopied niche and in the usual position in the south wall a beautiful 13th-century piscina and triple sedilia forming a single composition of four delicately moulded trefoiled arches, under straight labels or canopies with head-stops and small trefoils in the spandrels. The arches spring from detached shafts with moulded bases and moulded and foliated capitals.¹ At the east end the jamb is an attached shaft with fillet on the face and moulded capital and base: the seats are on one level. The west jamb of the piscina is chamfered, with a moulding at the top: the bowl is mutilated. Above the sedilia is a 13th-century opening of two un-

inner order resting on half-round responds, the outer continued to the ground. On the south side the orders are hollow-chamfered and are similarly treated. The sharply pointed chancel arch is of two chamfered orders, the inner springing from half-octagonal responds with moulded capitals and bases, the outer continuous.

The Lady Chapel (33 ft. 6 in.² by 14 ft. 6 in.) is lighted on the north side by two four-centred windows of three and four cinquefoiled lights respectively, with simple tracery and hood-moulds with head-stops, and at the east end by a large pointed window of five cinquefoiled lights with moulded jambs, elaborate vertical tracery and enriched hood-mould. The flowers in the hollow of the hood-mould are repeated in a string-course below the parapet. The west arch, separating the chapel from the north aisle, is of three chamfered orders on the west and two on the east side, the inner order on half-octagonal responds with moulded capitals and bases, and the hood-mould terminating in grotesque heads. The east end of the chapel is screened off, as at Higham Ferrers, by a solid wall about 8 ft. high, against which the altar was set, the space beyond forming the sacristy, a long narrow chamber about 4 ft. in width.

¹ One only of the capitals is foliated, the others moulded.

² Or 38 ft. including the sacristy at its east end.

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The upper part of the screen, or reredos, has an arcading of five cinquefoiled crocketed ogee arches and battlemented top. There is no trace of a piscina, but a rebated rectangular aumbry remains in the north wall. The sacristy is entered from the chancel by a 13th-century continuous-chamfered doorway, and at its north end, covering the north-east corner of the building, is an octagonal battlemented turret containing a vice which gives access to the chapel roof; the doorway to the vice is 13th century, but is probably not in its original position.¹ The chapel roof is modern, but old stone corbels remain on the south side.

The south chapel (38 ft. by 14 ft.) is lighted at the east end by a pointed window of four lights and on the south by three four-centred windows, the westernmost of two and the others of three cinquefoiled lights, all with transoms, vertical tracery and crocketed hood-moulds. In the easternmost window on the south the transom is battlemented and the hood-mould of the middle window has stops containing shields with the monograms **IHC** and **M**. In the usual position in the south wall is a 15th-century piscina with cusped head, crocketed label, and square bowl. The elaborate west arch of the chapel is of two moulded orders, its western face set within a rectangular moulded frame with panelled spandrels supported by scroll-bearing angels² on brackets. The jambs of the arch have a deep case-ment and shafted mouldings with capitals and heads over the hollows: an inscription on the soffit records the construction of the arch by Hugh Bochar and Julian his wife.³

The transepts for the most part preserve their late-13th-century character. The walls, with their short coupled angle buttresses of a single stage, remain unaltered, and with the exception of the east window of the south transept, which is a tall 15th-century opening of three cinquefoiled lights with two embattled transoms and elaborate vertical tracery, all the original windows have survived. There is a chamfered string-course at sill level all round, stopping against the aisle walls, but both end-gables are of low pitch and the roofs have been altered. In the south transept ironstone is used in quoins, parapets, and bands in the south and west walls, but in the north arm in the quoins only. The end window of the south arm consists of three trefoiled graduated lancets, with pierced spandrels, double chamfered jambs, and hood-mould with notch terminations. The west wall is blank. The north end window is of four lights with intersecting tracery consisting of trefoiled circles, and has double hollow-chamfered jambs and hood-mould. The two inner lights are trefoiled, the outer plain. In the east wall is a window of two lancet lights with trefoiled circle in the head and notch-ended hood-mould, and a smaller one with reversed trefoil in the head high up at the south end of the wall. There are corresponding windows, slightly differing in detail, in the west wall. In the north transept are two rectangular aumbries, one at each end of the east wall, and in the west wall below the window a pointed doorway of a single continuous chamfered order: there is no piscina. The south transept was set apart in 1919

as a War Memorial Chapel, and the walls covered to sill level with panelling. Both transepts are separated from the aisles by 15th-century screens, but their roofs extend to the arcade of the nave, the eastern bay of which forms a structural 'crossing': the roofs are modern, or much restored. In the south transept the string below the parapet belongs to the 14th-century alterations and is ornamented with heads connected by tendrils.

The arches of the nave arcades are of two chamfered orders with hood-mould, springing from rather slender octagonal piers⁴ with moulded capitals and bases: the inner order dies out above the capitals. The easternmost bay ranges with the transepts and its arches are therefore considerably wider than those farther west:⁵ the responds follow the design of the piers but their moulded capitals are simpler. There are also transverse arches across the aisles west of the transepts, of two chamfered orders, straggling and unequal in shape, which spring on the wall side from corbels placed lower than the pier capitals. The strainer arch, which was introduced early in the 15th century to counteract the thrust of these transverse arches, consists, like that at Finedon, of a two-centred segmental moulded lower arch springing from the capitals of the easternmost piers, with an upper single-segment inverted arch resting upon it. The spandrels are filled with large traceried circles and elongated quatrefoils, and the inverted arch consists of a moulding and band of pierced quatrefoils set lozengewise surmounted by a battlemented cresting. At the spring of the lower arch, on either side, are figures of angels masking its junction with the arcade.

The two tall four-centred 15th-century windows of the aisles are of three cinquefoiled lights, of the same general character as those at the east end of the church, with elaborate vertical tracery beginning considerably below the spring of the arch and divided into two stages by embattled transoms. The single round-headed windows at the west end of the aisles appear to be 18th-century insertions, or adaptations of earlier openings: the stops of the hood-mould of that to the north aisle bear the date 1718.⁶

There are five pointed clerestory windows on each side; three over the two western bays are of four cinquefoiled lights with traceried heads, and the others over the transepts are single cinquefoiled openings.

The 13th-century north doorway is of two hollow-chamfered orders, the inner continuous with trefoiled head, the outer semicircular on nook-shafts with moulded capital and bases, and hood-mould with head-stops. The beautiful 15th-century two-story porch is elaborately vaulted and has a four-centred moulded outer arch within a rectangular frame, with traceried spandrels⁷ and canopied niche above. The bracket for a statue remains, but in 1829 the niche was converted into a window to light the porch chamber, the original window on the west side being then blocked. Access to the chamber is from the outside by a doorway cut through the upper part of the east wall.⁸ The diagonal angle buttresses of the porch are of two stages and in the west

¹ It was probably the outer doorway of the original sacristy.

² On the north side the scroll bears the inscription 'In God is all', on the south 'In God help'.

³ The inscription reads: 'This arche made Hue bochar & Julian hise wyf of w[h]os sowlys God have merci up on

Amen.'

⁴ The piers are about 18½ in. diameter: the moulded bases stand on massive square masonry plinths.

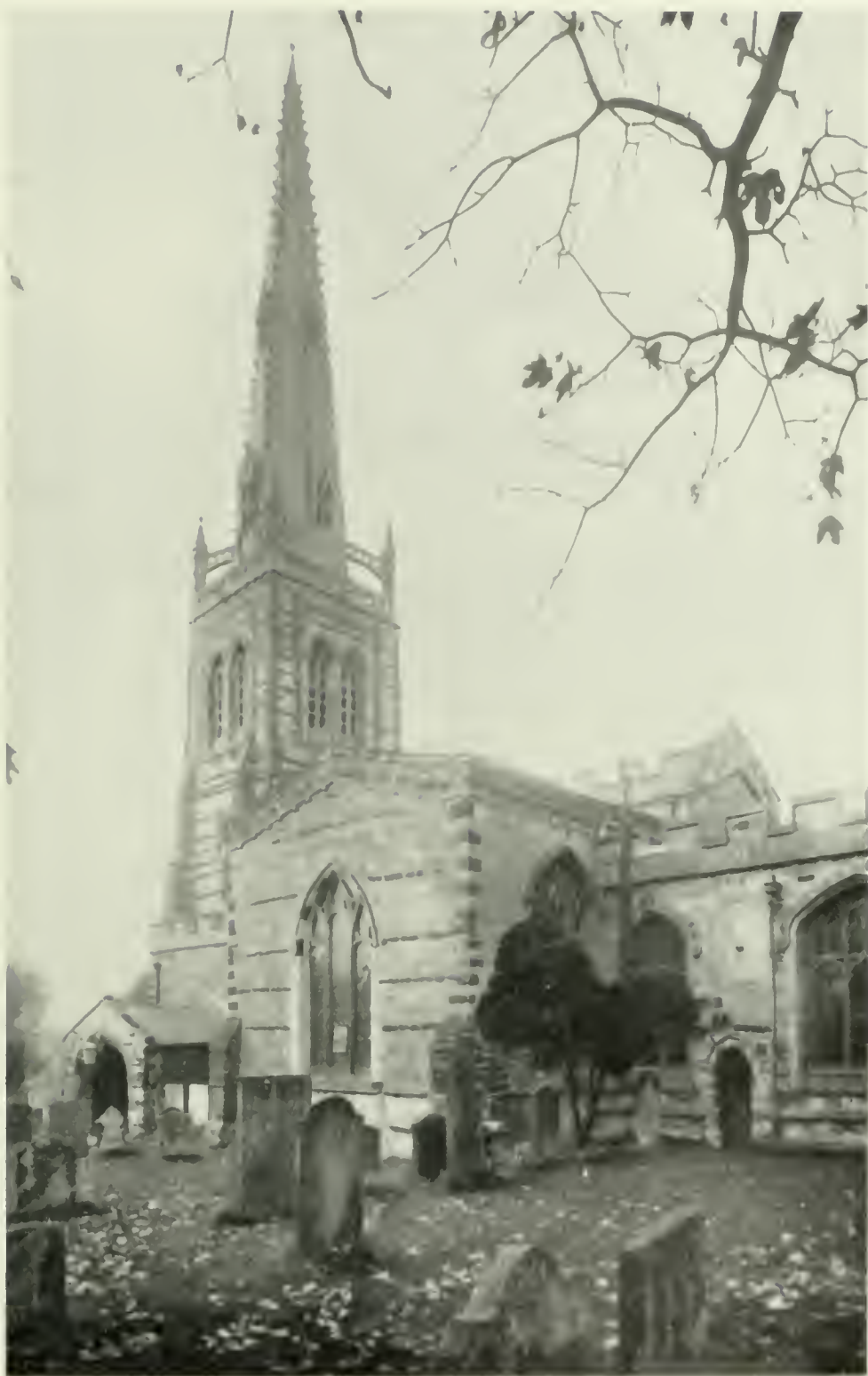
⁵ The width of the arches, from west to east, is 14 ft. 7 in., 13 ft. 9 in., and 19 ft. 1 in. respectively.

⁶ *Chs. Archd. N'ton*, 178. The

numerals are divided; the two latter are nearly obliterated.

⁷ The spandrels contain blank shields within quatrefoiled circles.

⁸ 'Before the passing of the Poor Law Act the chamber was allotted by the parish authorities as the residence of an old woman': *Arch. Jour.* xxxv, 430.



RUSHDEN CHURCH, FROM THE SOUTH-EAST



RUSHDEN CHURCH: INTERIOR, FROM THE WEST ENTRANCE

wall is a four-centred traceried window of three cinque-foiled lights.

The 14th-century south doorway is of two continuous wave-moulded orders, as is also the outer doorway of the plain unbuttressed contemporary porch, the coped gable of which has a trefoil finial: high up in the east wall is a small niche and in the west wall a single-light window.

The graceful west tower and spire are, of their period, inferior to none in the county. The tower is of four stages, the three lower supported by double buttresses set back from the angles, above which, on each side, is a grotesque head. In the upper stage the angles are marked by flat pilasters. The buttresses and the quoins of the upper story are of ironstone, and there are ironstone bands irregularly placed on the intervening wall-spaces. The vice is in the south-west angle. The west doorway is covered, as at Higham Ferrers and Raunds, by a shallow stone porch (8 ft. by 4 ft.) with continuous moulded outer arch the straight-gabled embattled canopy of which is connected by cusping with the tower buttresses. Over the arch is an empty trefoiled niche, and above the canopy a plain gable of masonry forming the roof of the porch, which internally is covered with a small quadripartite vault whose chamfered ribs, as well as the wall-arches, spring from mutilated carved corbels: the boss is a six-leaf flower. The inner doorway has continuous mouldings divided by a casement but is without a hood, the wall above being quite plain. The west window is of three cinque-foiled lights, with moulded jambs and vertical tracery, and above it, in the third stage, is a clock dial. On the north and south sides the two lower stages are blank, but in the third stage is a small pointed window of two trefoiled lights with quatrefoil in the head. The large double bell-chamber windows are of the same type, but deeply recessed, with moulded jambs, and hood-moulds continued round the tower as a string. Above them, between the pilasters, is a band of trefoiled tracery, and the tower terminates in a beautiful parapet of pierced quatrefoiled circles on a corbel table of heads and flowers, with shafted angle pinnacles attached to the spire by pierced flying buttresses. The spire has crocketed angles and three tiers of gabled openings in the cardinal faces, the two lower being of two trefoiled lights, with transom and a quatrefoil in the head. The spire is 96 ft. high and the total height of tower and spire 192 ft.

The late 13th-century font has an octagonal bowl, the sides of which are carved with bold leaf-work, and the shaft has traceried ornament of various patterns.

The interesting 15th-century oak pulpit has traceried panels divided by buttresses, moulded top, and embattled bottom moulding: the canted front is supported on a shafted stem.¹

The roof of the nave is of five bays, with moulded principals resting on angel corbels, and carved bosses: each bay is subdivided by moulded ribs into eight compartments and the battlemented end-pieces have shields within quatrefoils and an angel in the centre. The

shorter roofs of the aisles are equally good, of two bays, with moulded principals, quatrefoiled wall-plates, and end-pieces, the bays subdivided as before, with angels below the intermediate cross ribs. The roof of the south chapel, though altered and much restored, is in large measure original, and has four moulded principals and battlemented wall-plate.

The 15th-century screenwork remains to be noticed. The rood-screen is much restored and the upper part modern: it has three tall traceried openings on each side of the doorway, but the lower part is quite plain, the rail and upright being unmoulded. The screens between the chancel and chapels extend across both openings on either side: less in height than the rood-screen they are of the same general character, with traceried openings and moulded top-rails and uprights, but they are extensively restored.² At the west end of the south chapel, below the Bochar arch, is a screen with two traceried openings on each side of the doorway and solid lower panels, the top-rail of which facing west is carved with vine pattern; and in a similar position in the north chapel a screen with elaborately carved top and middle rails, traceried openings, and solid lower panels.

The long screens inclosing the transeptal chapels are generally of the same character, but differ in detail, the upper rail of that on the north side being plain and the tracery rather simpler; both screens stand slightly in front of the aisle walls and are returned at the west end.

A few 15th-century seats remain at the west end of the nave.

At the east end of the north chapel, against the screen wall, is the canopied monument, with kneeling figures, of Robert Pemberton, 'gentleman usher to Queen Elizabeth for 30 years' (d. 1609), and Mary Traughton his wife (d. 1608).³ The cornice is supported by pilasters with Renaissance ornament, and in the two panels at the base are the figures of four sons and four daughters. Against the north wall of the same chapel is the canopied tomb of Sir Goddard Pemberton, kt. (d. 1616), high sheriff of the county of Hertford, with reclining figure in armour under a semicircular coffered arch. There are also mural tablets to John Ekins (d. 1677) and Elizabeth his wife (d. 1663).⁴

In the tracery of the east window of the chancel are a few pieces of 15th-century glass, the remains of a Jesse window, comprising four prophets and eight kings, on a blue ground: the prophets wear hats and stand within loops of the vine, embowered in foliage,⁵ the kings are nimbed. Other fragments of the same period occur in the east window of the north chapel, and in the north window of the nave.⁶

There are six bells, five by R. Taylor of St. Neots 1794, and the tenor by the same firm, then Robert Taylor & Son, 1818.⁷

The plate consists of a modern medieval chalice and paten of 1849, and a pewter flagon and bread holder.⁸

The registers before 1812 are as follows: (i) all entries 1598-1724; (ii) baptisms and burials 1726-83, marriages 1726-58; (iii) baptisms and burials 1783-

¹ The pulpit is on the south side of the chancel arch: its longer south side stands on a modern stone base, the north side is open.

² In front of the organ, on the south side, the screen is merely a modern framework.

³ The inscriptions on this and the other monuments are given in Bridges, *Hist. of*

Northants. ii, 192-3. Sir Goddard Pemberton is represented with pointed beard and ruff.

⁴ Bridges records an 'antique freestone monument' in the chancel with inscription to William Peeke and Margaret his wife, and a tablet to William Maye, 1631: *ibid.* 192, 194.

⁵ Nelson, *Anc. Painted Glass in Eng-*

land, 157.

⁶ The Virgin, apostles, and censuring angels in the east window of the north chapel; SS. Peter, Matthew, James the Less, and Andrew in the north window of the nave.

⁷ North, *Ch. Bells of Northants.* 395, where the inscriptions are given.

⁸ Markham, *Ch. Plate of Northants.* 253.

A HISTORY OF NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

1812; (iv) marriages 1754-1806; (v) marriages 1806-12.

The advowson of Rushden was *ADVOUSON* granted by William Peverel to the prior and convent of Lenton, a cell of the abbey of Cluni,¹ and was seized by Edward II in 1324, and on various other occasions when England was at war with France.² At the Dissolution the rectory was valued at £12 yearly.³ The advowson remained in the possession of the Crown until 1649,⁴ though Sir Lewis Pemberton presented for one turn in 1630;⁵ and it was granted during the Interregnum to John Ekins.⁶ He surrendered his grant at the Restoration, petitioning for a fresh one from the king,⁷ apparently unsuccessfully, as the Crown presented in 1665.⁸ The living was in the gift of the Lord Chancellor in 1873, but afterwards passed to the Church Pastoral Aid Society, the present patrons; its net value is £444, including the residence and 6 acres of glebe. The vicarage was stated, in the 17th century, to be 'provided for £60 per annum besides major tythes'.⁹ In 1324 the parson, Hugh de Willoughby, had enjoyed 'the greater and lesser tithes, profits, and fruits, and all tenements belonging to the church'; but this was only by virtue of a special lease made to him by Geoffrey the prior and the convent of Lenton for five years from 1 August 1324, in consideration of the release of an ancient debt of 200 marks obtained by them from his father, Sir Richard de Willoughby.¹⁰ The church had been valued at £20 in 1291.¹¹ The chantry certificates of Edward VI's time record a gift of land and rents to the value of 14*d.* 'by divers persons' for the maintenance of lights in Rushden church.

By his will dated 24 May 1619 *CHARITIES* William May gave £100 to be laid out in the purchase of land for the benefit of the poor. Upon the inclosure of the parish 10 acres of land at Wollaston was allotted in lieu of the land purchased. This is now let at £20 per annum.

A yearly sum of £3 is paid by the trustees of Parson Latham's Hospital in Barnwell agreeably to the direction of Nicholas Latham the founder, who died about 1620.

A sum of £3 yearly, usually called the Bull Money, was originally given by a Mrs. Mary Greaves (date unknown). This rentcharge, which issued out of certain land in Rushden, was redeemed by the transfer in 1905 of £120 Consols to the Official Trustees of Charitable Funds. The above-mentioned charities are administered by a body of trustees known as the Parochial Trustees in conformity with the provisions of a Scheme of the Charity Commissioners dated 29 May 1877. The income is applied in doles of 5*s.* each to aged poor and for the benefit of the local hospital.

Parish Clerk's Charity. For upwards of 250 years a piece of land containing an area of 222½ sq. yards with dwelling-house situate in Newton Road, Rushden, was held for the benefit of the Parish Clerk. The property was sold in 1923 and the proceeds invested, producing £38 10*s.* 6*d.* yearly in dividends. The charity is administered by the rector and churchwardens.

By his will proved in P.R. 1 May 1855 John Ward gave £400 Consolidated Bank Annuities, the interest to be applied in the first place in keeping in repair the tomb of his late father situate in the burial ground of the Baptist chapel, and the surplus to be applied in the repair of the chapel and towards the general expenses of the chapel. The endowment consists of £400 Consols producing £10 yearly in dividends. In 1922 £4 15*s.* was spent in repairs to the tomb.

Wm. Henry Wilkins by his will proved in P.R. 28 September 1905 gave to the Rushden Parochial Trustees two £50 4 per cent. mortgages of the Rushden and Higham Ferrers District Gas Co. the income to be applied for the benefit of the Rushden Nursing Association.

The same testator gave part of his estate to his wife's sisters, Mary Ann Foskett and Susan Elizabeth Foskett for life and directed that after the decease of each sister a sum of £200 should be paid to the Park Road Baptist Church and the residue to the parochial trustees, the income to be applied for the maintenance of any cottage hospital or nursing institute in Rushden. He also directed that the foregoing charities founded by him should be known as 'The Foskett Wilkins Charity'.

Miss Susan Elizabeth Foskett by her will proved in P.R. 25 February 1911 gave £50 and Miss Mary Ann Foskett by her will proved in P.R. 21 December 1918 gave £300 in augmentation of the charity for the Cottage Hospital. The endowments of these charities now produce an income of about £100.

The Wilkins Foskett (Cemetery) Charity was founded by Declaration of Trust dated 28 June 1922. The endowment consists of £10 original stock of the Rushden and Higham Ferrers District Gas Co. and the income is applied by the parochial trustees towards the upkeep of the cemetery for the parish of Rushden and particularly the graves of the Wilkins Foskett family.

By his will proved in P.R. 12 January 1924 Jeremiah Knight gave the interest on £1,000 and his house in Denmark Road, Rushden, to his niece Florence Cowley for life, and directed that upon her death the property should form part of his residuary estate, which he bequeathed to the trustees of the parochial charities for the support of a cottage hospital or nursing institute.

By codicil to his will proved in P.R. 11 January 1924 Joseph Arthur Loyal Dearlove gave £100 2½ per cent. Consolidated Stock, the income arising therefrom to be applied by the rector and churchwardens in keeping the Rushden churchyard in good order and particularly the grave of the testator's parents.

The Skinner (Cemetery) Charity was founded by Declaration of Trust dated 12 February 1925. The endowment consists of £120 2½ per cent. Consolidated Stock and the income therefrom amounting to £3 yearly is applicable by the parochial trustees in the repair of the cemetery and the graves therein.

The several sums of stock are held by the Official Trustees of Charitable Funds.

The four almshouses built in 1883 to the memory of Frederick Maitland Sartoris are supported by his family.

¹ *Cal. Chart.* 1300-26, p. 316; *V.C.H. Notts.* ii, 96.

² *Cal. Pat.* 1324-7, p. 63; 1338-40, p. 51; 1340-3, pp. 64, 148, 464, 486; 1422-9, p. 391.

³ Dugdalc, *Mon.* v, 117.

⁴ *Pat.* 11 Jas. I, pt. xiii; 2 Chas. I, pt. iv; *Inst. Bks.* (P.R.O.).

⁵ *Inst. Bks.* (P.R.O.).

⁶ *Cal. S.P. Dom.* 1661-2, p. 156.

⁷ *Ibid.*

⁸ *Inst. Bks.* (P.R.O.).

⁹ *S.P. Dom. Chas. I*, cccviii, no. 140.

¹⁰ *Cal. Pat.* 1324-7, p. 63.

¹¹ *Tax. Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), 40.

HIGHAM FERRERS HUNDRED

STANWICK

Stanwige (xi-xvi cent.); Stanwicke.

The parish of Stanwick, containing about 2,023 acres, between the River Nene and the Bedfordshire border, in 1935 became part of Raunds. The village stands on a slight hill overlooking the Nene, about a mile and a half from Higham Ferrers station. Bridges mentions a spring called the Holywell, which rose to the south-east of the church of St. Lawrence, and a stream, in the manor-house land, known as Finswell, which ran for a distance of about 12 poles above ground and then disappeared. Stanwick House, occupied by Mr. James Adams, stands on rising ground west of the church and has a fine view of the country-side. The solar with a chapel, built here by Robert de Lyndesey, Abbot of Peterborough (1219-22), is said to have been taken down when the house was rebuilt in 1714.¹

The rectory, however, has been more prominent in history than the manor-house. In the time of Queen Mary Richard Gill was deprived on 22 May 1554 and his successor, John Smythe, on 19 January following.² William Dolben, who was buried here on 19 September 1631, was so beloved by his parishioners that they ploughed and sowed the glebe at their own expense during his illness, so that his widow might have the profit from the crops. The rector left two daughters and three sons, of whom the eldest, John, was born at Stanwick on 20 March 1625. John Dolben was at Christ Church on the outbreak of the Civil War, but at once took arms for the king, serving as ensign at Marston Moor. He was seriously wounded in the defence of York, but afterwards joined the garrison at Oxford, where, after the surrender of the city in 1646, he resumed his work, taking his M.A. degree in the following year and being elected to a fellowship, of which he was subsequently deprived by the parliamentary visitors. In 1660 he was made Canon of Christ Church, in 1662 Dean of Westminster, and in 1666 Bishop of Rochester, where he remained until his appointment in 1682 as Archbishop of York.³

The rectory house was rebuilt, at a cost of £1,000, by Peter Needham, a distinguished classical scholar, who was appointed rector in 1717 and died here in 1731.⁴ His successor was Denison Cumberland, whose son, Richard Cumberland the dramatist, has left in his memoirs an account of his youth at Stanwick, where he projected a universal history and wrote a play upon Caractacus in the Greek manner. An income which secured him leisure to develop his literary activities was assured to him by his appointment as private secretary to Lord Halifax, an office which seems to have been almost a sinecure. Denison Cumberland had enlisted in the neighbourhood two full companies for a regiment raised by Halifax in 1745; and Halifax recognized this service, together with the rector's support of the Whigs in the contested election at Northampton in 1748, by providing for his son. The elder Cumberland himself left Stanwick in 1757, on his appointment to Fulham.⁵

It was an old custom in Stanwick to allow the young people to jangle the church bells on Shrove Tuesday, but this practice seems to have been discontinued about 1880.

The soil varies considerably; the subsoil is chiefly Great Oolite, with a deposit of Cornbrash in the eastern part of the parish, but a belt of alluvium and Upper Lias clay follows the course of the River Nene. The chief crops are wheat, barley, oats, beans, peas, and potatoes. The common lands were inclosed in 1834.⁶

The manor of *STANWICK* formed part *MANOR* of the fee of Peterborough Abbey in 1086, when it was assessed at 1 hide and 1 virgate.⁷

It was held of them by Ascelin de Waterville in the reign of Henry I,⁸ but his son Hugh granted it to the abbey, with the exception of 2 virgates held of him by Assur and Gunfrey and another virgate which Ascelin had given in marriage with his two daughters. Geoffrey the brother, and Ascelin the heir apparent, of Hugh gave their consent to the grant.⁹ Henry de Stanewig held 5 virgates at Stanwick in 1187, and in 1195 Adam, Abbot of Peterborough, granted that Henry and his heirs should hold all the land of him for a yearly rent of 30s.¹⁰

In 1224 Joyce of Chelveston claimed the right of common in Stanwick 'because the men of the same Abbot common in Joyce's land at Chelveston, and so it was done after the conquest of England'. . . The abbot, however, replied that he claimed no common with the men of Chelveston, nor had it; and this he offered to prove by battle or by putting himself on the assize.¹¹

The men of the Abbot of Peterborough in Stanwick were released from attendance at the Hundred Court at Higham Ferrers by William de Ferrers, Earl of Derby.¹²

At the Dissolution the manor was granted to the dean and chapter of Peterborough Cathedral.¹³ It seems, however, to have remained or returned to the Crown, for Queen Elizabeth granted more than one lease of it;¹⁴ and a moiety seems to have been sold in fee to Lewis Nicholls in 1585.¹⁵ He, with Francis and Austin Nicholls, conveyed it in the following year to Robert Ekyns and John Atkyns.¹⁶ In May 1609 James I granted the whole manor to George Salter and John Williams,¹⁷ from whom it presumably passed to John Saunderson and Cecily his wife, John Cox and William Tawyer, who conveyed it to Nicholas Atkyns and John his son in 1622.¹⁸ John Atkyns and Frances his wife levied a fine concerning the manor in 1651,¹⁹ probably in connexion with the marriage of their son John to Elizabeth, daughter and heir of Richard Willis,²⁰ as the young couple, together with Richard Willis and his wife Prudence, were also parties to the fine.

John Atkyns died on 17 January 1669, having had seven sons and five daughters, of whom six sons and three daughters survived him.²¹ His son John with his wife Agnes sold the manor to the Ekyns family in 1671.²²

¹ Bridges, *Northants.* ii, 195.

² *Northants. N. & Q.* i, 215.

³ *Dict. Nat. Biog.*

⁴ *Ibid.*

⁵ *Ibid.*

⁶ 45 Will. IV, cap. 83.

⁷ *F.C.H. Northants.* i, 314.

⁸ *Ibid.* 377.

⁹ Cott. MS. Cleop. C. ii, fol. 24,

no. cxliii.

¹⁰ *Ibid.* fol. 14.

¹¹ *Bracton's Note-Book* (ed. Maitland), 971.

¹² Reg. Rob. de Swaffham, cciii, s.d.

¹³ *L. & P. Hen. VIII*, xvi, g. 1226 (10);

xx, pt. ii, 1066.

¹⁴ Pat. 2 Eliz. pt. xiii; 38 Eliz. pt. vii.

¹⁵ Recov. R. Hil. 27 Eliz. m. 13.

¹⁶ Feet of F. Northants. Hil. 22 Eliz.

¹⁷ Pat. 7 Jas. I, pt. xvi.

¹⁸ Feet of F. Northants. Hil. 19 Jas. I.

¹⁹ Feet of F. Div. Co. Trin. 1651.

²⁰ M.I. in Stanwick Church.

²¹ *Ibid.*

²² Bridges, *Northants.* ii, 195; Feet of F. Northants. East. 23 Chas. II.

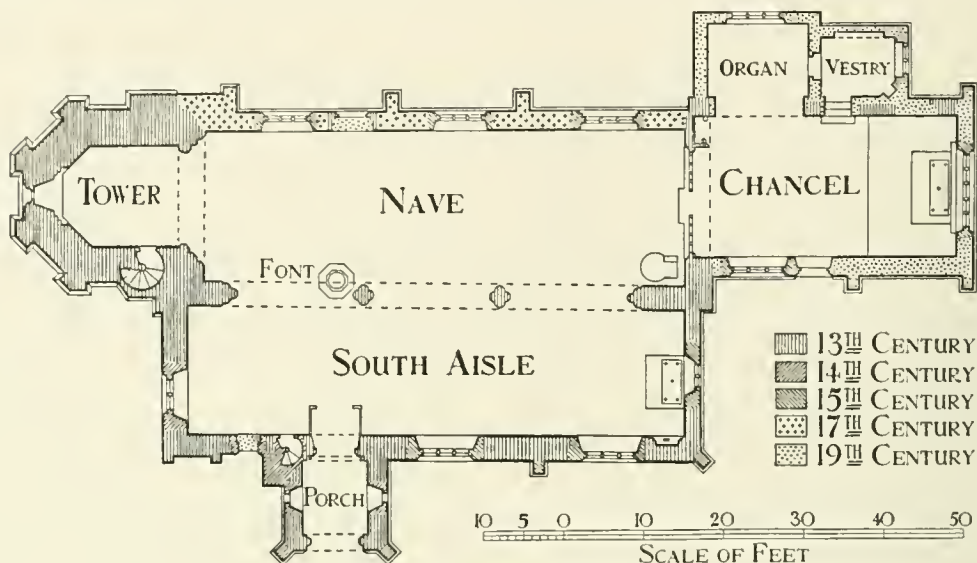
A HISTORY OF NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

John Ekins of Rushden was lord in 1723,¹ but in 1773 it was the property of Mary Pacey, and in 1876 of Mr. Spencer Pratt.

Half a fee in Ringstead and Stanwick was held in 1242 of William Earl of Ferrers by Matthew de Iverny,² and subsequently by William de Walda,³ and this was divided in 1275 between Roger Barbedor and Ralf Waldesheshef.⁴ It seems probable that an arrangement was made by which the land in Stanwick was held by Waldesheshef, and that in Ringstead (q.v.) by Barbedor, for in May 1298 William Waldesheshef only is said to have been holding in Stanwick of the Earl of Lancaster of the

Stanwick in 1086, with a meadow of 8 acres.¹⁵ The meadow and mill, with lands and pastures, were valued at £8 11s. for the taxation of 1291;¹⁶ and seem to have followed the descent of the manor. Two mills in Stanwick, 'being a water-mill and a windmill', parcel of the lands of Peterborough, were leased to Edward Ferrers and Francis Phelips on 19 May 1609.¹⁷

The church of *ST. LAWRENCE* consists of chancel, 30 ft. 6 in. by 17 ft. 6 in., with north vestry and organ-chamber; nave, 59 ft. 6 in. by 18 ft. 6 in.; south aisle, 16 ft. wide; south porch, and octagonal west tower, 12 ft. 6 in. in



PLAN OF STANWICK CHURCH

honor of Peverel.⁵ The Waldesheshef fee was held about 1330 by Ralf Waldesheshef, the heir of William de Vaux;⁶ but the property, like that in Ringstead, was in 1428 in the hands of Sir Simon Felbrigge.⁷ It seems to have passed not long afterwards to the College of Higham Ferrers, and was granted, with other lands formerly belonging to the College, to Robert Dacres on 17 April 1543.⁸ His grandson, Sir Thomas Dacres, held at the time of his death in 1616.⁹

Certain lands in Stanwick, described in 1462 as a manor, were held in the 15th century by the Tresham family and followed the descent of Rushton (q.v.).¹⁰

Lands and tenements in Stanwick formed part of the appurtenances of the manor of Cotes held by Sir Henry Green at the time of his death in 1399.¹¹ The property followed the descent of his estates,¹² and is mentioned by Bridges in 1723 as 'a small manor consisting of rents of the yearly value of £1 11s. 11d., reserved out of certain lands formerly copihold but now manumised', belonging to the Earl of Peterborough.¹³ The date of the enfranchisement is uncertain, but the rent is described as a free rent at the death of Henry Lord Mordaunt in 1609, when it was of the yearly value of 38s. 8d.¹⁴

There was a mill worth 20s. attached to the manor of

diameter, with tall stone spire. All these measurements are internal. The width across nave and aisle is 37 ft. 7 in.

The building is mainly of the 13th century, in the earlier part of which, c. 1220-30, aisles were added to an existing 12th-century nave, the chancel was rebuilt, and the tower and spire erected. Some late-12th-century indented moulding is used in the reconstructed chancel arch, but with this exception little or nothing from the earlier fabric has survived. The porch appears to have been contemporary with the aisle, but a chamber was built over it, probably in the 14th century, and buttresses added: a window at the west end of the aisle is also of this period. In the 15th century the chancel was rebuilt and its width reduced by setting back the south wall some 2 or 3 ft., new windows were inserted in the aisles and parapets added to the walls. That there was formerly a north aisle seems plain from the nature of the outer wall of the nave and its junction with the tower and chancel, and also from the evidence of the plan: the remaining portion of the original north wall of the chancel at its west end stands considerably in front of the wall of the nave, and the tower and chancel arches are no longer in its line of axis.¹⁸ Originally the

¹ Bridges, loc. cit.

² *Bk. of Fees*, ii, 933.

³ See above, p. 41.

⁴ *Hund. R.* (Rec. Com.), ii, 10.

⁵ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* iii, 423, p. 296.

⁶ *Feud. Aids*, vi, 568.

⁷ *Ibid.* iv, 46.

⁸ *L. & P. Hen. VIII*, xviii, pt. 1, g. 474 (27).

⁹ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), ccclix, 119.

¹⁰ *Cat. Pat.* 1461-7, pp. 111, 431; 1476-85, pp. 201, 416.

¹¹ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 1 Hen. IV, pt. 2, no. 1.

¹² Feet of F. Div. Co. Hil. 2 & 3 Phil. and Mary; *Recov. R.* Trin. 18 Eliz.; *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), ccxix, 200.

¹³ Bridges, *Northants.* ii, 195.

¹⁴ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), ccxix, 200.

¹⁵ *V.C.H. Northants.* i, 314.

¹⁶ *Tax. Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), 54.

¹⁷ *Pat. 7 Jas. I*, pt. xvi; *Cal. S.P. Dom.* 1640, p. 659.

¹⁸ The 13th-century roof-table on the east side of the tower extends some distance beyond the face of the present nave wall.



STANWICK CHURCH: THE TOWER

width of the nave was about 21 ft., but at what period the aisle and its arcade were removed is unknown. In the existing wall are a blocked 13th-century doorway and three 15th-century windows, but it seems most likely that the aisle was pulled down and the present wall erected in 1664, which date, with the initials R. S., is on a panel above the doorway,¹ which is the old one re-used. The windows of the aisle were also incorporated in the new wall. The chancel was again largely rebuilt in 1823, the old windows being retained, and an extensive restoration of the fabric was carried out in 1855-6.²

With the exception of the chancel the building is of rubble and has battlemented parapets throughout. The high-pitched roof of the nave is covered with Colleyweston slates, but the chancel and aisle roofs are leaded. There is no clerestory.

The chancel is of two bays, faced with coursed dressed stones and has a 15th-century east window of four cinquefoiled lights with vertical tracery, and one of three lights at the west end of the south wall: the eastern bay is blank and the priest's doorway is a renewal. Part of the old north wall remains, with a window jamb at its east end, but no ancient ritual arrangements had survived.³ The chancel arch is of two chamfered orders, the inner springing from half-octagonal responds with moulded capitals and bases. The arch is four-centred and the labels differ, that facing west having a big indented moulding and the other a large nail-head, the explanation probably being that a late-12th-century arch was reconstructed in the 13th and again in the 15th century, at the enlargement and at the rebuilding of the chancel. On the north side of the opening facing east is a beautiful 13th-century niche, or stall, with a rounded trefoiled head of two moulded orders, the inner resting on shafts with moulded capitals and bases: the cusping has foliated terminations.⁴

The nave arcade is of three bays, with arches of two chamfered orders on 13th-century piers composed of four clustered shafts with moulded capitals and chamfered bases and responds of like character. The arches are four-centred, but having hood-moulds of distinctly 13th-century character have been considered contemporary with the piers:⁵ it is not unlikely, however, that the arcade was rebuilt in the 15th century with careful re-use of the old material and the shape of the arches altered. The upper doorway⁶ of the rood-loft remains at the east end of the arcade. The three pointed 15th-century windows of the nave are each of three lights with quatrefoil tracery and are set high in the wall, with a portion of moulded string below the sills inside. The north doorway is of two unmoulded orders, with plain jambs and hood-mould, but the double chamfered impost, which is a continuation of the external string, belongs to the period of rebuilding. The roofs of the nave and aisle are modern.⁷ In the south wall of the aisle are two four-centred three-light windows with

vertical tracery, but the square-headed east window is of two lights. In the usual position south of the aisle altar is a 13th-century double piscina, with plain chamfered arches on small shafts with moulded capitals and bases: one of the bowls is plain and the other fluted. The 13th-century south doorway is of two chamfered orders, the outer on shafts with moulded bases, and the inner continued down the jambs below moulded imposts: the capital of the shaft on the west side is moulded, the other foliated. The 13th-century outer doorway of the porch is of two chamfered orders on half-round responds with moulded capitals and bases, and label with a headstop on one side and on the other a beautiful leaf-scroll corbel: the trefoiled side windows appear to be 14th-century insertions. The porch has a battlemented low-pitched gable and restored square-headed two-light window to the chamber, access to which is given by a vice in the north-west corner, entered from the aisle by a modern doorway:⁸ there is an older blocked doorway in the aisle wall farther west, which was probably the original entrance. The 14th-century west window of the aisle is square-headed and of two trefoiled lights.

The treatment of the tower is very unusual. It is octagonal in plan from the base, with flat clasping buttresses at the angles, but is so contrived on the east side that 'a square surface is presented to the body of the church',⁹ the angles being occupied at different levels by vices, or circular stairways, to the bell-chamber. The lower stair, in the south-east angle, does not go higher than the roof of the aisle, to which it gives access, but from this level a stepped passage in the thickness of the wall is taken across the tower arch to the upper stair in the north-east angle, which is carried up as an engaged turret nearly the full height of the upper stage, and opens to the bell-chamber by an elegant pointed arch springing from moulded corbels. The tower has a well-moulded plinth with a scroll-moulding as its upper member, and over this a keel-shaped string, both of which are taken round the buttresses. The west window is a single lancet of three chamfered orders, widely splayed inside, with a pointed chamfered rear-arch of two orders springing from double shafts, the capitals of which on the north side are foliated and on the south moulded. Above the window is an octofoil opening splayed to a circle within, but the lower stages on the north and south and canted western sides are blank, except for a small single lancet high in the south wall. The arch opening to the nave is of three chamfered orders on the east side, continued to the ground below moulded imposts. The upper, or bell-chamber stage, which is slightly set back, consists of an arcade of chamfered semicircular arches resting on groups of clustered shafts with moulded capitals and bases, those on the cardinal faces being pierced with two lancets with clustered mid-shafts¹⁰ and quatrefoils in the heads. On the alternate faces there are two blind-pointed arches with mid-corbel, and over all is a trefoiled corbel-

¹ The panel appears to be contemporary with the walling on either side and below it.

² A west gallery, erected by the Rev. Denison Cumberland, rector 1731-57, was then taken down; it was 'done in Doric woodwork' and obstructed the tower arch. The church was reopened after restoration 16 September 1856. The organ-chamber was added at this time, on the west of an earlier vestry.

³ A 'railing, screen & entablature upon three-quarter columns' (i.e. a reredos),

erected by the Rev. Denison Cumberland, have been removed.

⁴ The stall is probably in its original position, but the chancel has been so much altered that there is some uncertainty.

⁵ *Chs. Archd. N'ton*, 48.

⁶ It is square-headed and pierces the wall.

⁷ The nave roof was restored to its original pitch in 1856, before which it had been so much lowered that the top of the tower arch appeared above it: *Chs. Archd. N'ton*, 48.

⁸ The chamber, which measures internally 9 ft. 6 in. by 8 ft. 6 in. was 'discovered', or opened out, about 1848. The cusplings of the window had then gone: *ibid.* 48, 50.

⁹ *Chs. Archd. N'ton*, 44. 'Two squinches necessary for the conversion of the square into an octagon abut on the tower arch, and above them at the same relative position in the angles are the commencement of groining ribs': *ibid.* 46.

¹⁰ Except on the east side, where the shaft is octagonal.

A HISTORY OF NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

table resting on faces and notch-heads from which the spire rises behind a later battlemented parapet. The spire has ribbed angles and three tiers of gabled openings on the cardinal faces, the bottom ones transomed and of two lights. The total height of tower and spire is 156 ft.¹

The late 14th-century font consists of an elaborately carved octagonal bowl and base, but the stem is missing. The bowl has a cinquefoiled crocketed canopy on each face and the base a band of quatrefoils and trefoils.

The wooden pulpit and chancel screen are modern.² There is an oak chest dated 1701 and at the east end of the aisle a good Jacobean communion table with carved top rail and thick fluted baluster legs.

In front of the chancel arch is a floor slab with a brass inscription which reads: 'Hic jacet magist' Thom's de Wynceby qñdñ rector isti' ecclie cui' añ ppiciet' ds amen.'³

In the chancel is a mural monument to John Atkins, gent., 'lord of the manor of Stanwigge' (d. 1668-9), and at the east end of the aisle one to Mrs. Mary Pacey, lady of the manor (d. 1784).

There are three bells, the first of 14th-century date inscribed 'Symon de Hazfelde me fecit', the second dated 1721, and the tenor 1613.⁴

The plate consists of a silver paten of 1705, an alms dish of 1734, a flagon of 1845, and two cups of 1856, all London make.⁵

The registers before 1812 are as follows: (i) baptisms and burials 1558-1678, marriages 1561-1677, with a gap in all entries 1570-7; (ii) baptisms 1680-1757, marriages 1695-1757, burials 1679-1758; (iii) baptisms and burials 1758-1812; (iv) marriages 1758-1812.

The church of St. Lawrence at **ADVOWSON** Stanwick was valued in 1291 at £13 6s. 8d., deducting the pension of £1 and the portion of £1 6s. 8d. due to the Abbot of Peterborough, to whom the advowson belonged.⁶

In the Easter term of 1369 an interesting case was brought on a writ of *quare impedit* against the papal

presentee to this church.⁷ Michael Skillyng stated on behalf of the king that the church had fallen vacant when the temporalities of the abbey were in the king's hands by the death of Abbot Adam of Boothby (1321-38), for which reason the king should have made the presentation. William Kirkstede, the incumbent, replied that Thomas de Winceby had been provided by the Pope in the lifetime of Adam and had been parson afterwards, and that he himself had been provided by the Pope on Winceby's death after Henry of Overton (1361-91) had become abbot. Thomas de Winceby, who was parson of Stanwick in 1344,⁸ had probably been provided during the vacancy, for on 24 August 1352 he obtained a ratification of his estate with a warrant against disturbance by reason of any title the king could claim by reason of the voidance of Peterborough Abbey.⁹ Presumably the king reserved the right to make its next presentation. The jurors, however, found simply that 'the said church was vacant during the vacancy of the abbey: so that the Lord King may recover the presentation'.¹⁰ Accordingly, Edward presented Richard son of John Travers of Aldwinkle on 18 November.¹¹

At the Dissolution the advowson of Stanwick passed to the Crown, which retained it.¹² The living is now in the gift of the Lord Chancellor.

There are 11 acres of arable land in **CHARITIES** the parish called the Church Lands, the rent of which has from long usage been applied by the churchwardens towards church expenses. The land is let on yearly tenancy for £12 10s.

Peter Needham, D.D., Rector of Stanwick, bequeathed £10 to be laid out in land, the income to be distributed to poor housekeepers. The money was laid out in the purchase of land in Scaley Field which was conveyed by deed dated 29 July 1734 to the vicar and churchwardens. On an inclosure of the open fields an allotment of 1 a. 0 r. 5 p. situate in the adjoining parish of Raunds was set out in lieu of the land in Scaley Field. The land is let on a yearly tenancy and produces £2 5s. which is distributed in money to about 20 recipients.

STRIXTON

Trikeston, Struxton (xiii cent.); Stryxton (xv cent.); Strykson (xvi cent.); Stroxtion (xvii cent.).

Strixton is a small parish and village consisting of 3 farmhouses and 12 cottages. It is 1½ miles north of Bozeat on the main road from Wellingborough to Olney. Its area is 812 acres. Its population, which was 57 in 1801, and 48 in 1871, was 44 in 1931. When Bridges wrote, there were only two families; the manor house, which stood immediately east of the church and is said to have been an Elizabethan building, had 'an orchard of near 8 acres, well planted with different kinds of fruit'.¹³ The parish lies at a height of about 200 to 300 ft. Its soil is of a fertile, mixed character, its subsoil limestone: the chief crops grown are wheat, barley, oats, and beans.

The village lies at the north-east of the parish on a road branching west from the main road. The children attend school at Wollaston, 1 mile distant. The rector resides at Bozeat, with the vicarage of which parish Strixton, a discharged rectory, is consolidated.

Greenfield Lodge lies at the south-eastern angle of the parish. In the extreme south-west there are old gravel-pits, from which Strixton Plantation, a long narrow strip of woodland, runs north. In the north-west is Hillmount Spinney.

The men of Wollaston and Strixton were in 1254 the subject of an inquiry for alleged trespasses against the bailiffs of the forests of Rockingham and Salcey,¹⁴ but in 1263 as the result of this inquiry, which showed that they had always been without the bounds of the

¹ *Chs. Archd. N'ton*, 46.

² In 1849 the pulpit given by John Dolben, bishop of Rochester, was still in the church: *ibid.* 50.

³ Bridges says that the name does not occur in the Lincoln register. His suggestion that Wynceby was rector before Richard Travers, instituted in 1369 (*op. cit.* ii, 196), is correct: see below, under

'Advowson'.

⁴ North, *Ch. Bells of Northants*, 403, where the inscriptions are given. Simon de Hazfelde was casting 1353-73; a bell by him is at Sutterton, Lincs.

⁵ Markham, *Ch. Plate of Northants*, 266. The whole of the plate was presented by Stephen Eaton Elland in 1856 as set forth in an inscription on the alms dish.

⁶ *Pope Nich. Tax.* 40.

⁷ De Banco R. 434, m. 69.

⁸ *Cal. Pat.* 1343-5, p. 352.

⁹ *Ibid.* 1350-4, p. 317.

¹⁰ De Banco R. 434, m. 69.

¹¹ *Cal. Pat.* 1367-70, p. 168.

¹² *Inst. Bks. (P.R.O.)*.

¹³ *Hist. of Northants.* ii, 196.

¹⁴ *Cal. Pat.* 1247-58, p. 377.

forest of Salcey, and that their dogs never were lawed, they were granted freedom from such lawing of dogs.¹

There is no mention of Strixton in the *MANORS* Domesday Survey, but it was probably included, mainly, in the 2 hides and 3 virgates held by Winemar in Higham Hundred.² One portion of the vill formed a part of the two fees of Wollaston held in about 1236 by Robert son of Ralph from Robert de Newburgh and descended with the Chokes fee in Wollaston (q.v.).³ Another portion, which became the manor of *STRIXTON* and to which the advowson was appurtenant, was in the 12th century held with Easton Maudit by Michael de Hamslope,⁴ and was subsequently held of the fee of Maudit. This was presumably held by Sir Ralf Ridel, who presented to the church in 1230,⁵ and later by Thomas Golafre who was returned in 1265 as an adherent of the rebel Sir John Fitz John and as having lands in Strixton worth £10, which the Earl of Warwick (overlord of the Maudit fee) had seized.⁶ These lands he had recovered before 1274, when he presented to the church.⁷ Shortly after this date the manor must have passed, as did one part of Easton Maudit (q.v.), to Ralf Fauconberg, as he conveyed lands in Strixton to Henry de Preyers,⁸ who in 1284 was holding a quarter fee in Strixton of the Earl of Warwick,⁹ and subsequent presentations to the church were made by him and other members of the Preyers family.

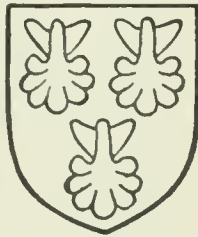
Henry de Preyers, with Thomas de Verdun, clerk, granted a rent of 20s. per annum out of the manor of Strixton to the priory of Spinney (co. Cambridge), in 1319,¹⁰ but before 1324 he had been succeeded in the manor by Thomas de Preyers of Strixton, who on 21 June 1324 (with John in the Willows of Fyndon) owed £120 to the executors of Thomas de Verdun,¹¹ and between whom and the Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield a fine was levied of the manor in 1328–9.¹² The unrest which culminated in the Peasants' Rising is possibly reflected in the issue, on 24 November 1380, of a commission of *oyer et terminer* on information that the bondmen and bond tenants of Thomas de Preyers in his manor of Strixton had withdrawn the services due to him and assembled and confederated together by oath to resist him.¹³ Thomas had been followed by Richard de Preyers, who died before 1402, when the fees of which Thomas Earl of Warwick was seised at his death included Strixton, held by the heir of Richard.¹⁴ This was his daughter Alice wife of Baldwin de Drayton,¹⁵ who with her husband had in 1391 granted tenements in Strixton and Grendon to Elizabeth Beau-

champ,¹⁶ and next year conveyed the manor and advowson to John Billyng and others,¹⁷ probably for the marriage settlement of their son John and his wife Margaret. Lady Margaret Trussel, probably the remarried widow of Baldwin de Drayton, was in 1428 holding three parts of a fee in Easton Maudit (q.v.) and Strixton which John Wolf and Henry de Preyers had formerly held of the fee of William Maudit.¹⁸ This property descended in the Drayton family,¹⁹ and in 1465 William Drayton died seised of a chief messuage in Strixton and the advowson of the parish church of St. Romwald of Strixton to the same belonging which he held of Richard Earl of Warwick.²⁰ His son Richard died seised of the same on 20 July 1479, holding under Richard Duke of Gloucester (the husband of Anne of Warwick), and his heir was his sister Anne, wife of Thomas Lovett.²¹ By this marriage the manor was conveyed to the Lovetts of Astwell, and on 14 December 1543 Thomas Lovett died seised of the manor, which he had settled on Joan Bury, widow, afterwards his wife, who survived him.²² He was succeeded by his grandson Thomas (son of his son



LOVETT. *Argent three wolves passant sable.*

Thomas) who was holding this manor in 1563.²³ Jane, the only child of Thomas Lovett, married John Shirley, and as Jane Shirley, widow, was dealing with the manor and advowson in 1572,²⁴ in which year a moiety of the manor was conveyed to Paul Stretely by Griffin Birkmere and others.²⁵ The manor and advowson were in 1581 conveyed by George Shirley, son and heir of Jane, then remarried to William Grey, to Paul Stretely, who granted to George Shirley a rent of £13 6s. 8d. from the same to begin after the deaths of Thomas Lovett, esq. and Jane Grey, wife of William Grey, the mother of George.²⁶ Thomas Lovett died in 1586 and was succeeded by his grandson George Shirley²⁷ (created a baronet in 1611) who was dealing with the manor in 1588,²⁸ shortly after which the manor and advowson were conveyed to Sir Horace Pallavicini by Paul and Christopher Stretely and Philip Smyth and his wife Martha,²⁹ with the manor of *TIRRELLS*. This last was evidently the manor of Strixton which George Tirrell conveyed in 1559 to Paul Darell.³⁰ The transaction recorded in 1336, when William de Brampton and Reynold de Eston, vicars of Wollaston and Easton, recovered seisin from William de Newenham of a free tenement in Wollaston and Strixton held of the manor of Strixton, may have referred to this property.³¹ Richard Newenham, chaplain, was holding a manor of Strixton in 1395–6,³² and this does not appear to have been the de Preyers manor. It was possibly also the



PREYERS. *Gules three scallops or.*

¹ *Cal. Pat.* 1258–66, p. 250.

² *V.C.H. Northants.* i, 342a.

³ *Bk. of Fees*, 603; *Feud. Aids*, iv, 45, 445.

⁴ *V.C.H. Northants.* i, 376b.

⁵ *Bridges, Northants.* ii, 198. He had probably married one of the co-heirs of John Maudit; see above, p. 12.

⁶ *Cal. of Inq. Misc.* i, 838.

⁷ *Bridges*, loc. cit.

⁸ *Harl. Ch.* 49 I, 18.

⁹ *Feud. Aids*, iv, 14. In the same year he was fined for not having taken up knighthood although holding land worth £20: *Assize R.* 619, m. 64 d.

¹⁰ *Harl. Ch.* 57 C, 26.

¹¹ *Cal. Close*, 1323–7, p. 200. Cf. *ibid.*

¹² Feet of F. Northants. case 176, file

72, no. 11.

¹³ *Cal. Pat.* 1377–81, p. 578.

¹⁴ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 2 Hen. IV, no. 58.

¹⁵ *Harl. MS.* 6606, f. 115.

¹⁶ *Add. Ch.* 740. Elizabeth Beauchamp presented to the church in 1392 and 1407.

¹⁷ Feet of F. Northants. 15 Ric. II, file 88, no. 137.

¹⁸ *Feud. Aids*, iv, 45.

¹⁹ For pedigree see *Bridges*, op. cit. ii, 197.

²⁰ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 5 Edw. IV, no. 7.

²¹ *Ibid.* 19 Edw. IV, no. 44.

²² *Exch. Inq. p.m.* dcciii, 2.

²³ *Recov. R.* Hil. 6 Eliz. ro. 402.

²⁴ Feet of F. Northants. East. 14 Eliz.;

Feet of F. Div. co. Trin. 14 Eliz.

²⁵ *Ibid.* Northants. East. 14 Eliz.

²⁶ *Ibid.* Mich. 23 & 24 Eliz.

²⁷ *Baker, Hist. of Northants.* i, 732.

²⁸ *Recov. R.* Mich. 30 Eliz. ro. 84.

²⁹ Feet of F. Northants. Hil. 31 Eliz.

³⁰ *Ibid.* Mich. 1 & 2 Eliz.

³¹ *Assize R.* 1400, m. 102.

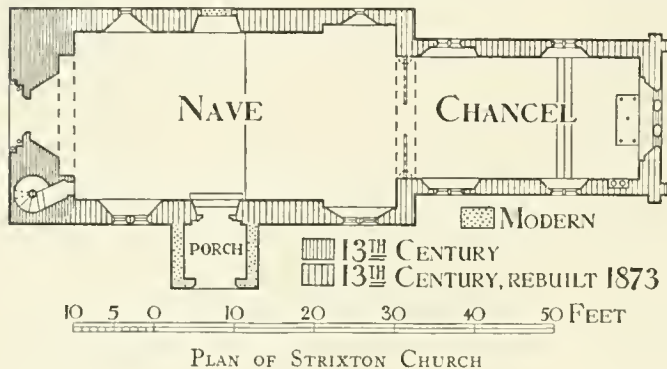
³² Feet of F. Northants. 19 Ric. II, file 89, no. 168.

A HISTORY OF NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

manor of Strixton of which Sir Henry Broomfleete, Lord Vessy, was seised at his death on 16 January 1469, when his daughter and heir Margaret, wife of Sir Lancelot Threlkeld, succeeded him.¹

Strixton manor and other lands in Strixton and Wollaston and elsewhere had before 1590 been granted to Sir Thomas Cecil. Robert Earl of Essex, with Sir Thomas Cecil and Thomas Crompton, exchanged this and other property for lands in Oxfordshire which on 24 January 1590 were by Queen Elizabeth granted at the request of the Earl of Essex to Thomas Crompton and others.² The manor of Strixton having thus reverted to the Crown again was, on 17 September 1604, as 'lately parcel of the possessions of Sir Thomas Cecil, kt., now Lord Burghley', granted to Sir James Hay and Honor Denny, daughter and heir of Edward Denny of Waltham, co. Essex, and their heirs.³ The

but had done so several times, and the court found the charges groundless, Lambe prosecuting merely for the sake of molestation.⁹ In 1642-3 Elizabeth Wiseman was dealing with a moiety of the manor and advowson of Strixton, which she conveyed to William Wiseman.¹⁰ In 1647 a conveyance of the whole manor and advowson was made to her by Sir Andrew Jenour, bart., and Margaret his wife, John Gage and Elizabeth his wife, and Richard Bingley and Frances his wife, with warranty against the heirs of Margaret, Elizabeth, and Frances,¹¹ apparently Wiseman ladies. Ten years later it appears as held by the Alston family, and a fine was levied of the manor and advowson, by Edward Alston, esq., and Hester his wife, John Alston, esq., and Dorothy his wife, Edward Alston, M.D., and John Wayne, gent., who conveyed them to Sir Thomas Alston in 1656.¹² According to Bridges Sir Edward Alston of East Barnet on his death in 1682 bequeathed the manor and advowson to his eldest son William Alston,¹³ who presented in 1681 and 1688; and William, dying s.p. in 1690, bequeathed them to his third brother Charles Alston, D.D., Vicar of Northall and Archdeacon of Essex, by whom they were sold to his sister Catherine widow of John Wiseman (who presented in 1707), passing from her to her daughters Hester and Elizabeth Wiseman,¹⁴ who presented to the church in 1721 and 1723.¹⁵ Before 1753 the presentations show that the advowson, and presumably the manor, was in the hands of John Spencer of Althorp, and since that date the Earls Spencer have been lords of the manor and sole landowners.¹⁶



favourite upon whom King James bestowed Strixton, with other lands and honours showered upon him, did not marry the bride his sovereign was so anxious to secure for him until 6 January 1607.⁴ Lord Hay, afterwards created Earl of Carlisle, is said to have been a spendthrift 'who left not a house or acre of land to be remembered by'. In 1610 he conveyed the manor and advowson to Peter Bland,⁵ with whom and Susan, wife of the said Peter, he conveyed them to Richard Smyth in 1613.⁶ In 1619 Robert Parkhurst, citizen and goldsmith of London, received licence to inclose 260 acres of arable land in Strixton and turn them into pasture.⁷ He, with Margaret Smyth, widow, was holding the manor and advowson in 1637-8, when they conveyed them to William Streete and John Bourne.⁸ It seems probable that Margaret Smyth was the widow of Richard, that he was a connexion of Philip Smyth, mentioned in 1588, and that this conveyance was in preparation for a transaction with the Wisemans, who held a lease of Strixton property. Sir John Lambe, Chancellor of the diocese of Peterborough and Dean of the Arches (a persecutor of recusants and nonconformists, against whom petitions in parliament were presented in 1621 and 1624), had prosecuted John Wiseman and his wife Frances in 1615 for profanation and dilapidation of the church of Strixton, and for marriage within the prohibited degrees. Wiseman stated he was not bound by his lease to repair the church

The church of *ST. JOHN BAPTIST CHURCH* consists of chancel, 27 ft. 6 in. by 14 ft. 8 in.; nave, 40 ft. 6 in. by 20 ft. 10 in.; and south porch, 7 ft. 6 in. by 6 ft. 10 in., all these measurements being internal: there is a saddle-back bell-turret over the west gable. With the exception of the west wall the whole of the fabric was taken down and rebuilt in 1873,¹⁷ the old materials being re-used where possible and all its architectural features retained.

The building¹⁸ was of early-13th-century date (c. 1220) throughout and may be still so described though much new masonry has necessarily been introduced. As rebuilt it is faced with dressed stone, but the original walling at the west end is of rubble. The chancel and nave are under separate high-pitched modern tiled roofs with eaved gutters. Internally the walls are of bare stone.

The chancel has double angle-buttresses of two stages, a string-course at sill level, and east window consisting of a triplet of lancets, with a quatrefoil opening within a circle in the gable above. Externally the lancets have individual hood-moulds, but within the whole of the four lights are contained within an arch of two chamfered orders. On either side of and above the upper light externally are sunk circular quatrefoiled panels filling the gable, and the lower panels are repeated inside on either side of the containing arch.

¹ Chan. Inq. p.m. 8 Edw. IV, no. 37.

² Cal. S.P. Dom. 1590-7, p. 61; Pat. R. 33 Eliz. pt. 6, no. 17.

³ Pat. R. 2 Jas. I, pt. 29, m. 22; Cal. S.P. 1663-10, p. 149; Feet of F. Northants. East. 4 Jas. I; Mich. 5 Jas. I.

⁴ Dict. Nat. Biog.

⁵ Feet of F. Northants. Trin. 7 Jas. I.

⁶ Ibid. East. 10 Jas. I.

⁷ Pat. R. 16 Jas. I, pt. 8, no. 2.

⁸ Feet of F. East. 13 Chas. I.

⁹ Cal. S.P. Dom. 1611-18, pp. 272, 277.

¹⁰ Feet of F. Northants. Hil. 18 Chas. I; Recov. R. Hil. 18 Chas. I, ro. 10.

¹¹ Feet of F. Northants. Trin. 23 Chas. I.

¹² Ibid. Mich. 1656.

¹³ Hist. of Northants. ii, 197.

¹⁴ Ibid.

¹⁵ Inst. Bks. (P.R.O.).

¹⁶ Kelly, Directories.

¹⁷ Assoc. Arch. Soc. Reports, xii, p. xxxii.

¹⁸ Measured drawings of the church (12 plates) by Edward Barr, architect, were published by Parker, Oxford, in 1849.

The gable has a plain coping. In both north and south walls are two windows of two coupled lancets, with segmental rear arches, and in the usual position in the south wall a double piscina with plain chamfered arches on moulded jambs with dog-tooth ornament and detached shaft with moulded capital and base. The bowls are fluted and the hood-mould is a continuation of the internal string-course. The sill of the easternmost window on each side is lowered to form a seat, and there is a stone wall-bench on the north side between the windows. In the south wall is a shouldered priest's doorway plainly chamfered, and at the west end two narrow oblong low-side windows opposite each other, that on the south being the larger.¹ Each window is now glazed and has a modern oak shutter within. The chancel arch is of two chamfered orders, the inner springing from moulded corbels.

The nave is lighted on the south by two sets of coupled lancets, one on each side of the porch, and on the north by a similar window near the west end and a single lancet towards the east, all with segmental rear arches and jambs continued to the floor. Above the windows externally, at the level of the apex of the hoods, is a string-course or corbel table of notch-heads, and at sill level a string differing in section from that of the chancel. The nave has also a moulded plinth, which in the chancel is wanting. Both stringcourses and plinth are returned along the west wall for a distance of about 4 ft. 6 in. The pointed west doorway is of three chamfered orders with hood-mould, the two outer on shafts with moulded capitals and bases, and above it is a large unrestored sexfoil window with continuous label of the same form.² In the gable above is a modern semicircular opening. The bell-cote, or turret, which measures internally 7 ft. 6 in. by 4 ft. 6 in., is carried by a plain recessed pointed arch of a single unmoulded order at the west end of the nave, within which is the arch of the widely splayed west doorway. Access to the turret is by a circular stair south of the supporting arch and by a passage stair in the thickness of the west wall. The turret is of rubble with slated roof, and has a plain rectangular louvred opening on the west, with loops to north and south: it contains a single bell, cast by Henry Bagley of Chacombe, in 1671.³

The much-restored south doorway has an arch of two

hollow-chamfered orders, the outer on shafts with moulded capitals and bases,⁴ and the outer doorway of the porch is of two continuous chamfered orders. The north doorway is of a single hollow-chamfered order and hood-mould. The western portion of the nave floor is raised a step.

There is a 15th-century chancel screen, bearing traces of colour, with moulded uprights and top rail, plain sill, and five traceried openings on each side of the doorway. The solid lower portion is new.

The font and pulpit are modern: a wrought-iron hour-glass stand is now set on the top of the screen. The 18th-century communion table, with turned legs, is in the nave.

The plate consists of a silver cup and paten of 1628, and a pewter flagon without marks.⁵

The earlier registers were destroyed in the fire at Bozeat vicarage in September 1729: the earliest existing volume contains entries of baptisms, marriages, and burials from 1730 to 1812.

The first recorded presentation was *ADVOWSON* made in 1230, but no record of the living was made in 1291, and in 1428 it was not taxed because there were only seven householders in the parish.⁶ The advowson descended with the manor (q.v.) and was long held with the vicarage of Bozeat, with which it was transferred by Earl Spencer to the Bishop of Peterborough in 1922. It was united with Wollaston in 1929.⁷

The profits of the rectory, then leased to Thomas Lovett, were returned in 1535 as £7 1s. 6d.⁸ In 1562 a grant of all tithes, grain, &c., belonging to the late monastery of Delapré was made to Richard Pype, citizen and leather seller, and Francis Bowyer, grocer, both of London, and included all tithes, great and small, extending to 33s. 4d. yearly, in the parish of Strixton, now or late in the occupation of John Spencer.⁹ A lease of these tithes was in 1565 the subject of Chancery proceedings instituted by William Spencer of Mears Ashby and Robert Spencer of Lincoln's Inn against Paul Stretely and George Packe of Strixton,¹⁰ and they were in 1582 conveyed by William Spencer and his wife Isabel to George Carleton,¹¹ who with his wife Elizabeth granted them, as formerly belonging to the rectory of Wollaston, to Paul Stretely in 1583.¹²

WOLLASTON

Wilauestone (xi cent.); Wullaueston (xii cent.); Wollaston (xiii cent.).

The parish of Wollaston lies on the Bedfordshire border and is separated from Doddington on the north-west by the River Nene, whose marshy banks supply rushes for the mat-making which still holds its own as a means of employment in the neighbourhood, though the place of chief industry has been taken by boot-making. The village stands about 2½ miles south from Wellingborough station on the Northampton and Peter-

borough section of the L.M.S. railway; it is lighted with gas from its own works, built in 1872, and supplied with water by the Higham Ferrers and Rushden joint water board from their works at Sywell. A fair number of good 17th-century stone houses remain in the village, some of them modernized, but others preserving their original architectural features. On the west side of the church is an undated two-story house of this period with gabled dormer windows and thatched roof, and on the south side another thatched house with

¹ *Assoc. Arch. Soc. Reports*, xxix, 447. The south window is 3 ft. 11 in. high by 10 in. wide, that on the north 2 ft. 4 in. by 9 in. The sills are 12 in. above the floor inside.

² This window, long blocked, was opened out in 1924, when painted glass, representing the Virgin and Child, was inserted.

³ North, *Ch. Bells of Northants*, 410. The bell is said to have been brought from Bozeat.

⁴ The bases are original, and are now about 17 in. below the level of the porch floor, from which there is a descent of four steps to the nave.

⁵ Markham, *Ch. Plate of Northants*, 274. When the church was rebuilt a burial

paten and chalice of 13th-century date were found in a tomb under the chancel wall.

⁶ *Feud. Aids*, iv, 52.

⁷ Order in Council, 15 Aug. 1929.

⁸ *Valor Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), iv, 311.

⁹ Pat. R. 6 Eliz., pt. 6, no. 29.

¹⁰ Chan. Proc. Ser. II, bdle. 168, no. 72.

¹¹ Feet of F. Northants, Trin. 24 Eliz.

¹² Ibid. Hil. 25 Eliz.

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a panel in the gable inscribed 'I.D., MDCLXXIX'.¹ A large house at the Strixton end of the village dated 1657² has a good contemporary oak staircase to the top floor with turned balusters and newels with ball tops. Opposite this, at the corner of Long Lane, is a house with a panel inscribed 'N. K. 1678' (for Nicholas Keystian), which is said to have been the Manor Farm. A much-modernized house known as 'The Priory', south-west of the church, incorporates part of what appears to be the oldest building in the village, probably of 16th-century date, with low mullioned windows and some internal features the identification of which has been rendered uncertain by successive alterations. A good stone house near the church, occupied by Miss Keep, was erected about 1770 by Ambrose Dickins.³ Wollaston Hall, a stone house now occupied by Mr. H. A. Hall, stands a little to the east of the church, and to the south-west of it is Beacon Hill, a high conical mound planted with trees and shrubs.

In 1672 Thomas Brett obtained a licence to hold Presbyterian services in the house of John Morrice in Wollaston.⁴ The Congregational chapel was founded in 1775, reopened in 1900; the Methodist chapel was built in 1840 and the Baptist chapel in 1867.

The population, which was 2,345 in 1931, has increased during the last 20 years, owing to the introduction of boot-making; but some of the inhabitants are still engaged in agriculture. The soil varies considerably within the parish, the subsoil being alluvium in the valley, Great Oolite, limestone, and Upper and Middle Lias clay. The chief crops are cereals and turnips, but much of the land is pasture, and there is a poultry farm belonging to Wollaston Hall.

The common lands were inclosed, under a Private Act, in 1788.⁵

There were, in 1086, two manors in *MANORS WOLLASTON*: one assessed at 5 hides, which was included in the land of Gunfrey of Chocques under Spelhoe Hundred and had been held by the four thegns who preceded him, with sac and soc;⁶ and another, assessed at 2 hides, which Corbelin held of the Countess Judith. The larger manor formed part of the honor of Chokes, of which the descent was complicated by temporary escheats, due to its holders' connexions with France.⁷ During the 12th century Wollaston seems to have been granted to Robert de Newburgh (or Neufbourg, Normandy). The Advocate of Béthune obtained seisin of it with the rest of his inheritance in England in 1200,⁸ and in 1208 sued Robert de Newburgh for the manor, on the plea that it had only been mortgaged to him for a loan of £40, which he was now willing to repay.⁹ Evidently the Advocate recovered the overlordship and Robert then held of him the manor, which he granted to the abbey of Bindon (Dorset).¹⁰ Subsequently, in 1223, Robert de Newburgh commuted this grant for a money payment, as he enfeoffed Robert

the son of Ralf of the manor, retaining 1 virgate with the service of Saer de Wollaston and his heirs,¹¹ and stipulating that Robert should pay 210 marks to the abbey. Robert son of Ralf appears to have granted a third part of his manor to John de Newburgh for life in 1225,¹² but is described as holding two fees in Wollaston in 1236 of Robert de Newburgh, and in 1242 of 'the Honor of Chokes, which Robert de Gynes holds'.¹³ Robert the son of Ralf seems to be Robert le Waleys who died before 1246, when Robert de Guisnes successfully claimed the custody of the manor during the nonage of his heir.¹⁴ This heir was presumably William de Bray, who obtained from Henry III a grant of a weekly market on Tuesday at Wollaston and a yearly fair there on the vigil, feast, and morrow of the Invention of the Cross.¹⁵ A further grant was made on 4 March 1263 to the men of Wollaston that they should be quit of the lawing of their dogs and of giving ransom for them, as it had appeared by inquest that they were outside the metes and regard of the forest of Salcey.¹⁶

In 1276 William de Bray granted 2 virgates of land in Wollaston with a messuage to Thomas, son of William and grandson of Gilbert de Wollaston, and Beatrice the wife of Thomas for their lives.¹⁷ In 1280 he, with Helwis, Agnes, and Maud¹⁸ the daughters of William son of Roger de Newburgh, registered a claim to a messuage and 10 virgates in Strixton and Wollaston, which Richard de Newburgh was granting to Roger de Newburgh and his wife Agatha for their lives.¹⁹ In 1286 Edmund the king's brother obtained from William de Cogenho, presumably representing the Newburgh mesne lordship, a quitclaim of the homage and service of William de Bray, who, being present, acknowledged that he held his land of Edmund and did him homage in the same court.²⁰

William de Bray died before 1305; in which year Robert de Bray, his son and heir, settled the manor of Wollaston on himself and his wife Mary with remainder to Thomas the son of Thomas de Berkeley, and Margery his wife,²¹ who was the daughter and heir of Robert de Bray; she died before her husband, who granted the manor in 1340 for the term of his own life to Maurice de Berkeley, with remainder to Katharine his daughter and the heirs of her body.²²

Thomas de Berkeley died on Wednesday before the Feast of St. Peter in Cathedra 1346, his daughter Katharine de la Dale being then 36. The manor of Wollaston at this time was said to be held of the fee of Chokes by service of a knight's fee and 20s. yearly to be paid at the king's castle of Northampton for castle ward, and 30s. yearly to the sheriff of Northampton for assessed fines. Richard Chamberleyn, who had married Katharine, petitioned that the king would release the manor, as it was not held in chief, and it was found that the manor was held immediately of the Earl of Lancaster as two knights' fees, by rent of 1*d.* yearly and

¹ The house has been much altered: the panel may be a modern rendering of an original date stone.

² Another house of this date which was standing at the top of Cobbe's Lane in 1893 (Whichello, *Annals of Wollaston*) has since been pulled down.

³ Whichello, *op. cit.*

⁴ *Cal. S.P. Dom.* 1672, pp. 62, 119.

⁵ 28 Geo. III, cap. 31.

⁶ *V.C.H. Northants.* i, 347.

⁷ Farrer, *Honors and Knights' Fees*, i, 20-30.

⁸ Pipe R. 2 John, m. 4 d.

⁹ *Cur. Reg. R. v.*, 233.

¹⁰ *Cart. Antiq. Q.* 17.

¹¹ Feet of F. Northants., file 17, no. 150; Farrer, *op. cit.* 40.

¹² *Cur. Reg. R.* 84, m. 19.

¹³ *Bk. of Fees*, i, 603; ii, 939.

¹⁴ *Cal. Close*, 1242-7, pp. 479, 522.

¹⁵ *Cal. Chart. R.* 1257-1300, p. 28. In the charter to William de Bray, bearing the same date (20 September 1260), now among Lord Middleton's MSS., the fair is to be held at Michaelmas (*Hist. MSS. Com. Rept.* 70). In the 18th century it was held on the first Sunday after 7 July:

Bridges, *Northants.* ii, 202.

¹⁶ *Cal. Pat.* 1258-66, p. 250.

¹⁷ Feet of F. Northants., file 51, no. 39.

¹⁸ They were heirs of their brother Richard, but Agnes had become a nun before 1285: *Assize R.* 616, m. 29 d.

¹⁹ Feet of F. Northants., file 52, no. 57.

²⁰ *Ibid.* file 55, no. 207.

²¹ *Ibid.* file 60, no. 477.

²² De Banco R. 362, m. 50 d; Feet of F. file 76, no. 217. Maurice Berkeley obtained a quitclaim from John de Bray in 1342: Feet of F. file 77, no. 256.

suit at Higham Ferrers Court, and that the earl held the manor of the king, as of the honor of Chokes; though this honor had been described in the previous March as pertaining to Sir John de Moleyns 'by the king's charter granted to him'.¹

In 1356 Henry Earl of Lancaster granted the manor to the Dean and Canons of the College of St. Mary at Leicester,² and it was probably after this date that it became known as *BURIE MANOR*, a name which seems to have been given locally to ecclesiastical property. The college obtained a grant of free warren there as soon as they were in possession.³ The holding was described in 1428 as one fee only, the other fee being said to have remained in the hands of Richard Chamberleyn and ultimately to have become divided between John Neubon and Thomas Walton of Strixton, St. Bartholomew's Hospital in London⁴ and the abbey of Lavendon and St. Mary Delapré by Northampton.⁵

It is probable that the possessions of the abbey of Lavendon and Delapré in Wollaston were attached to the lands of St. Mary's after the Dissolution, as they are not mentioned in any grant of the lands formerly belonging to these houses.

The manor, formerly belonging to the College of St. Mary at Leicester, was retained by the Crown until 1606,⁶ when James I granted 'the site of two manors in Wollaston' to Thomas Marbury and Richard Cartwright in fee-farm,⁷ but it had passed before 1635 to John Earl of Bridgwater.⁸ His descendants remained in possession until 1709, when Jane, Dowager Countess, and Scroope Earl of Bridgwater, sold the estate to Thomas Wentworth of Wentworth Woodhouse.⁹ His son Thomas, who was created Earl of Malton in 1728, was co-vouchee with Mary his wife in a recovery concerning the manor and the advowson of the vicarage in 1738,¹⁰ but the whole property seems to have passed to Ambrose Dickins, who presented to the church in 1765.¹¹ Watson William Dickins, with Francis Dickins and Diana his wife, dealt with the manor, rectory, and advowson by fine in 1828,¹² but in 1844 the Dickins estate was sold, Mr. Samuel Soames purchasing the manor-house and farm, which he sold in 1852 to Mr. Charles Hall,¹³ from whom it has descended to the present owner, Mr. H. A. Hall, but all manorial rights have lapsed.

The manor belonging to the Countess Judith in 1086 contained land for 3½ ploughs, and had previously been held by Stric freely. Winemar de Hanslope claimed it, but it was held by Corbelin of the Countess¹⁴ and afterwards of King David,¹⁵ being included in the honor of Huntingdon. During the 16th century it was distinguished from Burie by the name of the *HALL MANOR*.

At the end of the 12th century it was in the possession of a family who took their name from the place; they held also 1 virgate of Robert de Newburgh. In 1199 Richard the son of Thomas, and Christian his wife quitclaimed half a virgate of land to Roland de Wollas-

ton;¹⁶ and Simon de Wollaston is mentioned as holding in the township in the following year.¹⁷ Sir Saer de Wollaston, who occurs in 1218,¹⁸ had two sons, Simon and William, both of whom were witnesses to grants made to St. Bartholomew's Hospital in Smithfield. Simon had a son Robert,¹⁹ whose son Reynald granted land in Wollaston to his son John in 1269, paying rent of 100s. to Reynald and his wife Maud during their lives, with contingent remainders to John's brother Thomas and his issue, and their sister Maud and her issue.²⁰ In 1284 another Saer de Wollaston was lord of the manor, which was then described as held as of the honor of Huntingdon, but after this date the descent of the manor is obscure, though it seems to have remained in the possession of Saer's descendants.

William de Wollaston had view of frankpledge here in 1330,²¹ and in 1335 William de Wollaston 'the elder' was in possession of the manor of Wollaston, of which he was said to have disseised William de Brampton, parson of Easton, and Reynald de Eston, vicar of Wollaston. This was probably a fictitious suit, as William de Brampton and Reynald released their damages to William de Wollaston in the same court;²² but the nature of the settlement does not appear. In 1428 another William de Wollaston held land described as having belonged formerly to John Wollaston, but it is said to have been a quarter of a fee only, the other three-quarters having been divided into six equal portions between William Branspath of Irthlingburgh, William de Haldenby of Isham, William Kyngsman, John and Thomas Bedell of Wollaston, and John Herriot.²³ In 1442 John Rous, of Little Dorrington in Warwickshire, quitclaimed his right in the manor to William Wolston and John his son,²⁴ but which of the portions had come into his hands does not appear. Elizabeth, the widow of William Kyngsman, died seised of his portion in 1449, but her heir is not named;²⁵ and Audrey, the daughter of Sir Guy Wolston and wife of Thomas Empson, is said to have released the manor in 1515 to Richard Fitzwilliam of Milton, who presumably conveyed it to the canons of St. Mary at Leicester almost on the eve of the Dissolution. They had received a licence to acquire fresh lands in mortmain on 6 February 1480, and had obtained 6 messuages, 7 virgates of land, 12 acres of meadow, and 8 acres of pasture, in Wollaston, in part satisfaction of this grant, as late as 12 February 1506.²⁶ By 1533 they were in possession of 'the scite of the two Manors in Wollaston, Burie manor and the Hall Manor with all houses and demesne lands to them belonging'.²⁷ Both manors were apparently included in the grant to John Earl of Bridgwater and became amalgamated.

BARTHILMEW'S FEE. Robert de Newburgh



WOLLASTON. Sable a chevron between three scallops argent.

¹ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* viii, 630.

² Close, 30 Edw. III, m. 11, 12.

³ *Ibid.* m. 10.

⁴ Charters printed in Norman Moore's *History of St. Bartholomew's Hospital*; Harl. Chart. 54, D. 14; Chart. R. 2 Edw. III, m. 15, no. 47.

⁵ *Feud. Aids*, iv, 45.

⁶ Duchy of Lanc. Misc. Bks. no. 115.

⁷ Pat. 4 Jas. I, pt. 21, m. 17; *Cal. S.P. Dom.* 1603-10, p. 320.

⁸ *Recov. R.* III, 10 Chas. I, m. 2.

⁹ *Ibid.* Trin. 8 Anne, m. 6.

¹⁰ *Ibid.* East. 11 Geo. II, m. 198.

¹¹ *Inst. Bks.* (P.R.O.).

¹² Feet of F. Northants. Trin. 9 Geo. IV.

¹³ Whichello, *Annals of Wollaston*, 12.

¹⁴ *F.C.H. Northants.* i, 354.

¹⁵ *Ibid.* i, 376.

¹⁶ Feet of F. (Pipe R. Soc.), no. 208, p. 139; Feet of F. Northants., file 2, no. 45.

¹⁷ *Cur. Reg. R.* i, 174.

¹⁸ N. Moore, *Hist. of St. Bartholomew's*, i, 371.

¹⁹ *Ibid.*

²⁰ Feet of F. Northants., file 49, no. 884.

²¹ *Plac. de Quo War.* (Rec. Com.), 501.

²² *Assize R.* 1400, m. 101.

²³ *Feud. Aids*, iv, 45, 52.

²⁴ Close 20 Hen. VI, m. 12.

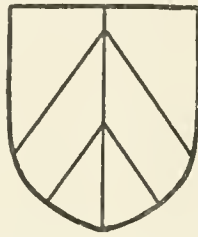
²⁵ Chan. Inq. p.m. 27 Hen. VI, no. 17.

²⁶ *Cal. Pat.* 1494-1509, p. 478.

²⁷ Duchy of Lanc. Misc. Bks. fol. 5.

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granted 7½ virgates of land in Wollaston to the Hospital of St. Bartholomew in Smithfield,¹ Hugh, the Master of the hospital, obtaining warranty of charter from him in 1218.² He also granted the grazing of 14 oxen wherever his own oxen should feed in Wollaston;³ and some years later William de Bray added two roods of arable land.⁴ The holding, which was known as Barthilmew's Fee, remained in the possession of the hospital until the Dissolution, and was in the tenure of John Coke on 13 January 1547, when it was included in the grant to the mayor and citizens of London as trustees of the new foundation.⁵



HOSPITAL OF ST. BARTHOLOMEW. *Party argent and sable a chevron countercoloured.*

During the early part of the 13th century the Abbey of Delapré by Northampton received several small grants of land in Wollaston. These included a confirmation from Hugh de Newburgh of the grant of the 'minster' at Wollaston, given by Robert de Chocques with the land behind the court; from Robert de Newburgh 1 virgate and the land called Northyrne; from Roger de Newburgh the land behind the Abbey's houses, between the two roads; from Samson the son of Samson, Gerscroft, Brintyngesholm meadow, and common of pasture; from William de Bray rent in Nedham in Wollaston, and from William son of Simon de Wollaston two messuages in Nedham Street.⁶ This property and that belonging to Lavendon were probably retained by the Crown and became amalgamated with the manor, as the advowson, part of the property of Delapré, was afterwards in the possession of John Earl of Bridgewater.

Each of the manors in Wollaston had a *MILLS* mill mentioned in 1086.⁷ That belonging to the larger manor was granted by William de Betun to Peter son of Adam about the end of the 12th century,⁸ and was afterwards bestowed by Robert son of Roger de Newburgh on the Hospital of the Holy Trinity by Northampton.⁹ In 1218 the master of the hospital obtained a quitclaim of a mill in Wollaston from Philip the son of Robert and Basile the daughter of Stephen.¹⁰ John, master of the hospital (c. 1233), granted their mill to Robert son of Ralf de Wolaston.¹¹ Subsequently the hospital granted it with the adjacent land to the College of St. Mary at Leicester in 1376.¹² The Dean and Chapter of the College at first paid a yearly rent of 40s. for the land, but 20s. of this was released to Dean Peter de Kellesey, by Richard Bollesore, master of St. Davids, as the water-mill was found to be 'entirely decayed'.¹³ It seems afterwards to have been rebuilt, as there were two mills belonging to the manor in 1590.¹⁴

The church of *ST. MARY THE VIRGIN* consists of chancel, 35 ft. 6 in. by 16 ft. 6 in.; central tower

and broach spire, north transept, 20 ft. by 14 ft. 9 in. wide; nave, 54 ft. 8 in. by 18 ft. 3 in., and north and south aisles 14 ft. wide, all these measurements being internal. The tower is 13 ft. square at the crossing and the width across nave and aisles 51 ft. 3 in. A former vestry at the east end of the south aisle now serves as an organ-chamber.

Before 1735 the church was an early-14th-century building with aisled nave of four bays, 'a cross aisle from north to south covered with lead and a chancel tiled',¹⁵ but on 13 November of that year 'the body of the church, supported by six pillars, suddenly and unexpectedly fell down',¹⁶ and in the rebuilding which followed in 1737¹⁷ the chancel was reconstructed and the south transept removed. The new nave was built in the classic style of the day, with the vestry covering the south side of the tower, the tower arches were filled in with rubble and plastered over, leaving two low openings from the nave to the chancel,¹⁸ and a gallery erected at the west end. Of the 14th-century structure only the tower and spire and north transept remained; subsequent changes have respected the 18th-century building, which externally remains unaltered. In 1824 the north transept was fitted up as a Sunday school,¹⁹ and in 1841 north and south galleries were erected.²⁰ In the course of an extensive restoration in 1885 the tower arches were opened out, the side galleries removed, the north transept rebuilt, and the organ removed from the west gallery to the south of the tower.

The chancel is faced with coursed freestone, but is without buttresses and its red-tiled eaved roof is modern. The east wall was rebuilt in 1902 and the three-light traceried window is of that date, as are also the tracery and mullions of the three round-headed 18th-century windows in the south wall. The north wall is blank. Two lead spout-heads bear the date 1772.²¹ Internally the walls of the chancel, as elsewhere, are plastered.

The beautiful 14th-century tower is open to the church in the lower stage through four sharply pointed arches of three chamfered orders, the innermost springing from half-round responds with moulded capitals and bases, the others continued below moulded impostes and stopped at the bottom with notch-heads. All the arches are alike and have hood-moulds on each side. Bands of ironstone in the masonry below the arches afford variety and contrast in colour. The vice is in the south-east angle of the tower, and externally takes the form of a hexagonal turret, sloped back with stone roof at the height of the top of the bell-chamber windows. The windows are double on each side, and of two trefoiled lights, with simple tracery in the head;²² the lower part of the lights is blocked. The angles of the tower are strengthened by small triple shafts stopping beneath a richly sculptured corbel table of heads and flowers connected by tendrils, from which the spire rises, and above the bell-chamber windows on each

¹ N. Moore, *St. Bartholomew's Hospital*, i, 367.

² *Ibid.* 369; Feet of F. Northants., file 14, no. 1.

³ Moore, *op. cit.* i, 256.

⁴ *Ibid.* 447.

⁵ *L. and P. Hen. VIII*, xxi (2), g. 771 (14).

⁶ Harl. Chart. 54, D. 14; Chart. R. 2 Edw. III, m. 15, no. 47.

⁷ *V.C.H. Northants.* i, 347, 354.

⁸ Anct. D. (P.R.O.), C. 1897.

⁹ *Ibid.* C. 1909. The hospital was also

known as St. David's, Kingsthorpe.

¹⁰ Feet of F. Northants., file 16, no. 53.

¹¹ Anct. D. (P.R.O.), C. 1867.

¹² *Ibid.* C. 160.

¹³ *Ibid.* C. 2729.

¹⁴ Duchy of Lanc. Misc. Bks. no. 115.

¹⁵ Bridges, *Hist. of Northants.* ii, 200, where the dimensions are given as 'church and chancel 119 ft. long, body and aisles 49 ft. 9 in. broad, cross aisle 68 ft. long'.

¹⁶ Note in Parish Register.

¹⁷ '1736-7, Feb. 24. The church began to be rebuilt': Par. Reg.

¹⁸ Whichello, *Annals of Wollaston*, 5: the chancel was enclosed by iron gates and very little used.

¹⁹ *Ibid.* 11.

²⁰ *Ibid.* 13.

²¹ Whether this indicates the year of the reconstruction of the chancel, or simply the erection of the spouts, is uncertain.

²² The window jambs are of three orders, the middle hollow chamfered, the others moulded: the two outer orders are continued round the head.



WOLLASTON CHURCH: THE TOWER



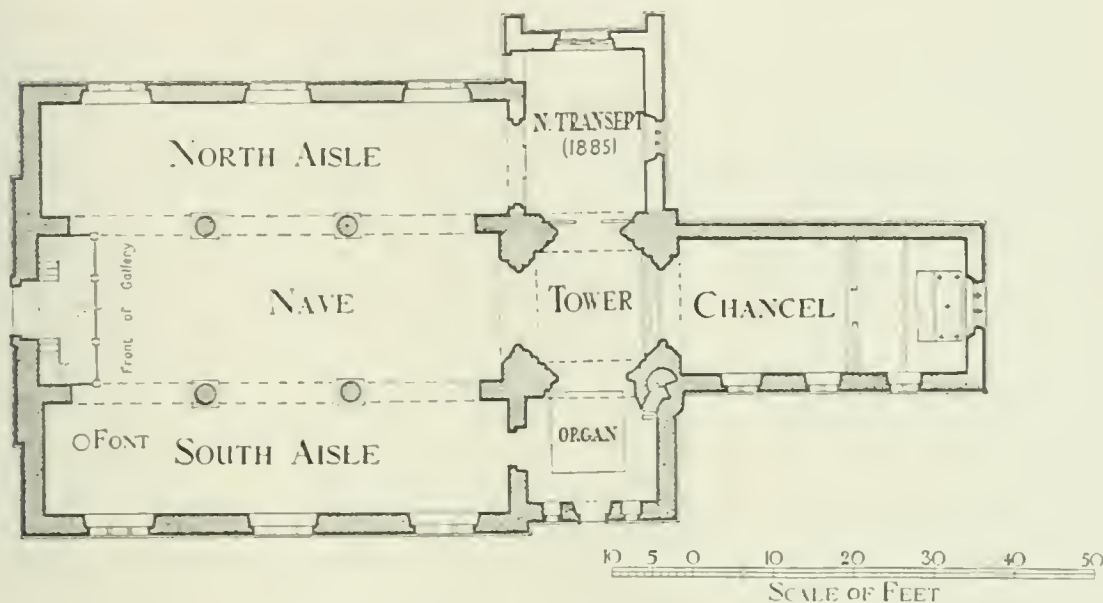
WOLLASTON CHURCH: INTERIOR, LOOKING EAST

side is a slightly ogee niche with moulded jambs and label. The spire has ribbed angles and tall pinnacles standing on the broaches, with three tiers of gabled lights, faced alternately, all of two trefoiled openings. The top of the spire, for a length of about 11 ft., was rebuilt in 1892.

The north transept was good work of the same period as the tower, and as rebuilt retains all its original features though windows and other of the architectural details are new. It is faced with coursed stone and covered

Above the doorway is a circular window. The side elevations are of plainer character, with plinth, cornice, and parapet, and three large round-headed windows with moulded sills, divided into three lights by flat intersecting mullions. On the north side a considerable amount of irregularly coursed ironstone is used, but on the south there is little or none. The date 1737 occurs on the keystone of the west doorway, and on the spout-heads. Below the west gallery is a good 18th-century screen with fluted pilasters.

■ 14TH CENTURY
 ■ 15TH CENTURY
 □ MODERN



PLAN OF WOLLASTON CHURCH

with a red-tiled gabled roof, and is now enclosed by modern gothic screens to form a vestry. The 14th-century arch opening to the north aisle remains and is of two orders, the inner order springing on the wall side from a half-octagonal respond with moulded capital and base. The windows in the north and east walls are of three lights with modern Decorated tracery, and there is a doorway in the west wall. In the north wall, below the window, are two 14th-century arched recesses with hood-moulds, one of which now contains a stone coffin found during the rebuilding, the lid of which has a beautiful floriated cross with ornamented stem.

The 18th-century nave is of three bays, divided from the aisles by tall Tuscan columns on high plinths and with pilasters at either end, supporting a single span roof, with separate plaster ceilings.¹ The west elevation is of much dignity, the nave projecting slightly in front of the aisles, with wide pediment, and square-headed doorway within a semicircular arch. The whole of the elevation is faced with alternate courses of ironstone and freestone, the contrast of colour being very effective.

The font dates from 1737 and is of stone, with circular gadrooned bowl and swelled base. The panelled pulpit is of the same date.²

There is a brass chandelier given by Ambrose Dickens in 1777.

The 15th-century brasses recorded by Bridges have disappeared.³ In the chancel are armorial slabs and a mural tablet⁴ to Edmund Neale (d. 1671) and his son Thomas (d. 1675), and memorials of Sir Charles Neale, Kt. (d. 1719), and Dr. John Shipton (d. 1748).

There is an 18th-century communion table in the vestry, and a panelled chest.

There are six bells, the first a recasting by Taylor & Co. in 1910, the second without date or inscription, the third by Taylor 1868, and the fourth, fifth, and tenor by R. Taylor, of St. Neots, 1806.⁵

The plate consists of a silver cup and paten, flagon, and alms basin of 1773, each inscribed 'The gift of Ambrose Dickens Esq^{re} to the Church of Wollaston, Northamptonshire 1774'.⁶

The registers before 1812 are as follows: (1) baptisms

¹ The nave ceiling is flat, those over the aisles coved.

² It is part of the three-decker pulpit which originally stood against the north-east column; Whichello, op. cit. 5.

³ *Hist. of Northants.* ii, 202. They were (a) Katharine, wife of Thomas Lybert,

1418; (b) Godith, wife of William Bedyll, 1424; (c) John Bedyll and Joan his wife, 1437; and (d) a man in gown with large sleeves.

⁴ The tablet is all that remains of a black and white marble monument with pediment supported by Ionic columns;

Bridges, op. cit. ii, 201.

⁵ North, *Ch. Bells of Northants.* 440, where the inscriptions are given. The old treble was by R. Taylor 1806.

⁶ Markham, *Ch. Plate of Northants.* 320.

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and burials 1663-96 and 1698-1781, marriages 1667-96 and 1698-1753; (ii) marriages 1754-71; (iii) marriages 1772-1812; (iv) baptisms and burials 1782-1812.

The church of Wollaston was *ADVOWSON* granted by Robert de Chocques to the abbey of St. Mary Delapré by Northampton during the reign of Stephen,¹ and remained in their possession until the Dissolution,² after which it became attached to the manor, then in the king's hands. The right of presentation to the living was granted to John Earl of Bridgewater before 1634,³ and subsequently followed the descent of the manor, Francis Dickins being the patron in 1847.⁴ The vicarage was annexed to Irchester before 1854, and so continued until 21 June 1880, when it was again separated. It is now in the gift of the Bishop of Peterborough.

In 1533 Thomas Leson obtained from Thomas Cromwell a 'letter directed to the abbess of Delapra for his brother Mohoon the King's servant for the lease of the parsonage at Wollaston', but apparently failed to obtain it,⁵ and the rectory was granted for life to Sir William Parr of Horton after the Dissolution.⁶ In 1564 it was bestowed by Queen Elizabeth on George Carleton,⁷ who sold it in 1581 to John Neale.⁸ In 1594 Neale, as proprietary rector of the church, reported that the chancel was very ruinous and almost falling, so that it was 'of no use either to the church or the inhabitants, and moreover cannot be repaired except at great cost, therefore he desires to be relieved of the obligation'.⁹ John Neale's descendants remained in possession for over a hundred years. He with his wife Elizabeth and Edmund Neale, who was perhaps their son, dealt with the rectory by fine in 1623 and again in 1633.¹⁰ Edmund Neale died in 1671, and his son Thomas, who died in 1675, was succeeded by Charles Neale. Charles Neale, with Edmund and James Neale, John Horton and Lucretia his wife, and Elizabeth and Ann Neale, levied a fine concerning the rectory in 1723.¹¹

Thomas Neale by his will dated 5 *CHARITIES* September 1674 charged a piece of land at Wollaston with 2s. weekly to be laid out in bread for the poor by the churchwardens and overseers. A sum of £5 4s. is received annually in respect of this charity from the owner of Wollaston Hall.

By his will dated 16 July 1730 Charles Neale gave £120 to be laid out in lands the rents thereof to be applied by the churchwardens and overseers in the distribution of bread to the poor. In 1820, in satisfac-

tion of this charity a sum of £173 6s. 8d. Consols was transferred to trustees. The stock produces £4 6s. 8d. yearly in dividends.

John Hazeldine, who died in 1732, gave 3 three-penny loaves a week to 3 of the poorest people of Wollaston. The sum of £1 19s. per annum is received out of land in Wollaston belonging to several owners.

The above-mentioned charities are administered by trustees appointed by the parish council in place of the churchwardens and overseers, and bread is distributed weekly to about 26 recipients.

By codicil to his will dated 14 July 1800, Jonathan Bettle gave to the vicar and churchwardens money to be laid out in the public funds as would be sufficient to produce £5 4s. annually to be distributed in bread to poor widows, and £4 annually to be laid out in books for the choir or in such other manner as the choir may direct. The endowment consists of £306 13s. 4d. Consols producing £7 13s. 4d. yearly in dividends. Of this £3 18s. is applied in bread and the remainder is paid to the choir.

The Congregational Chapel and Trust Property is comprised in indentures of 16 December 1752 and 22 January 1754.

The Charity of David Hennell for the minister of the chapel was founded by will proved on 14 September 1830. The endowment consists of a sum of £109 17s. 11d. Consols producing £2 14s. 8d. yearly in dividends.

The Charity for the minister of the chapel founded by indentures of lease and release dated respectively 11 and 12 April 1837 and 2 and 3 January 1840 consists of a house in Wollaston let on a monthly tenancy and producing £10 per annum.

The Charity of John Ward for repair of the chapel founded by indenture dated 28 October 1853 consists of 3 messuages in Wollaston with gardens (formerly Guillons) let on monthly tenancies and producing £19 10s. yearly.

The Charity of John Ward for repair of the house of the minister of the chapel was founded by will proved 1 May 1855 and consists of £517 9s. 7d. Consols producing £12 18s. 8d. yearly in dividends.

The trustees also hold certain sums representing accumulations of income. The above-mentioned charities in connexion with the Congregational Chapel are regulated by a Scheme of the Charity Commissioners dated 21 June 1894. The income is applied in the upkeep of the property and in the maintenance of the chapel. The several sums of Consols are held by the Official Trustees of Charitable Funds.

¹ Chart. R. 2 Edw. III, m. 15, no. 47.

² *Cal. Pat.* 1348-50, p. 332; 1350-4, p. 356; *L. and P. Hen. VIII*, vi, 349.

³ *Recov. R.* Hil. 10 Chas. I, m. 2.

⁴ *Inst. Bks.* (P.R.O.).

⁵ *L. and P. Hen. VIII*, vi, 349.

⁶ *Ibid.* xviii, pt. i, 547; xx, 678.

⁷ *Pat.* 6 Eliz. pt. 10.

⁸ Feet of F. Northants. Mich. 23 and 24 Eliz.

⁹ *Cal. of the Court Bk. of Peterborough*, printed in *Northants. N. & Q.* (N.S.), iii, 216.

¹⁰ Feet of F. Northants. Mich. 8 Jas. I; East. 9 Jas. 1; Hil. 20 Jas. I; Mich. 9 Chas. I; Bridges, *Hist. of Northants.* ii, 201.

¹¹ Feet of F. Northants. Trin. 9 Geo. I; *Recov. R.* Trin. 9 Geo. I, m. 154.

THE HUNDRED OF SPELHOE

CONTAINING THE PARISHES OF

ABINGTON	KINGSTHORPE	PITSFORD
GREAT BILLING	MOULTON AND MOULTON	SPRATTON WITH LITTLE
LITTLE BILLING	PARK	CREATON
BOUGHTON	OVERSTONE	WESTON FAVELL ¹

THE meeting-place of the hundred, from which it derived its name, which means 'the hill of speech', was a field on high ground in the north of Weston Favell parish.² In the Domesday survey the parishes of Abington, the Billings, Boughton, Moulton, Pitsford, Spratton, and Weston are all entered under Spelhoe, though, owing to imperfect rubrication, several of these occur also under the heading of other hundreds. In the 12th-century survey Spelhoe includes all these parishes and also that of Overstone, which is not mentioned in 1086, being probably at that date part of Sywell.³ Kingsthorpe, with outliers in Moulton and Weston, is entered in both surveys⁴ under the hundred of 'Mallele', or Mawesley, of which all the other parishes had been absorbed into the Hundred of Orlingbury (q.v.) by the middle of the 13th century. This is the more remarkable as from an early date the Hundred of Spelhoe was appurtenant to the royal manor of Kingsthorpe and the men of that vill claimed to hold it at farm from the Crown ever since the reign of John. Their right was confirmed by Henry III in 1224⁵ and its history is identical with that of Kingsthorpe (q.v.) up to the reign of Charles II, after which date all rights connected with it seem to have fallen into abeyance. There appears to have been some doubt in the reign of Edward II as to whether the hundred was included in the farm of the county of Northants., but an inquiry made in 1319 showed that it had always so belonged.⁶ In 1365 the men of Kingsthorpe complained that whereas they used to have the Hundred of Spelhoe, worth £10, Walter Parles (sheriff in 1359) and later sheriffs had taken the hundred and only paid them 4 marks yearly for it.⁷ By letters patent dated 1519 the men of Kingsthorpe were granted the manor of Kingsthorpe with all its members to hold from the Crown for 40 years at a rent of £50, and on the strength of these letters they claimed in 1545 to hold the hundred also.⁸ In 1638 another grant



SPELHOE

MAP OF THE HUNDRED

¹ List taken from *Population Returns Abstract* of 1831.

² Called Spellow Close: *Place-Names of Northants.* (Engl. P.-N. Soc.), 131.

³ *P.C.H. Northants.* i, 381.

⁴ *Rot. Lit. Claus.* (Rec. Com.), i, 609.

⁵ Memo. R. L.T.R. Hil. 12 Edw. II, m. 76; *ibid.* East. 12 Edw. II, m. 100.

⁶ *Cal. Pat.* 1364-7, p. 141.

⁴ *Ibid.* 306, 381.

⁸ Pat. 37 Hen. VIII, pt. 1, m. 72.

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was made in similar terms but, as there was no separate mention of the hundred, the Parliamentary surveyors in 1651 left the matter for further consideration.¹

The hundred was returned in 1246 as worth £8,² but by 1253 the farm had been raised to 20 marks,³ at which figure it was still standing in 1275.⁴ It was stated at the survey later in 1651 that the rent called certainty money, paid by the freeholders of the hundred, amounted to £7 os. 8d., while the profits of the court leet held half-yearly and of the three-weeks court and the royalties in hunting, hawking, fishing, fowling, &c. were worth one year with another £4. The waifs, strays, deodands, goods of felons and fugitives, &c. belonged to the lord of the hundred if the bailiff seized them first, but if the bailiff of the lord of a manor within the hundred, with a leet belonging, should obtain them first, then that lord was to receive the profits.⁵

¹ Parl. Survey Northants. no. 10.

² Assize R. 614, m. 41.

³ Ibid. 615, m. 63.

⁴ Ibid. 619, m. 63 d.

⁵ Parl. Survey Northants. no. 10.



ABINGTON HALL: THE STAIRCASE

SPELHOE HUNDRED

ABINGTON

Abendon (xii cent.); Abynton, Habinton (xiii–xiv cents.).

Since 1900 the civil parish of Abington has ceased to exist, a portion having been included in the municipal borough of Northampton, while the rest has been amalgamated with Weston Favell. For ecclesiastical purposes, however, it still forms a parish. In 1902 certain adjustments of boundaries were made between Abington and St. Giles, Northampton.¹

The ancient civil parish of Abington had an area of 357 acres, mostly under permanent grass. The soil is loamy and marl, and the subsoil consists of sandstone and clay; the chief crops were wheat and barley. The population in 1891 was only 121 and had risen by 1901 to 553, the town of Northampton having grown to the east by the erection of new factories; as a result of further building it had increased to 8,958 in 1931.

The parish ran north and south and was long and narrow, widening out towards the centre where Abington Abbey and the park are situated. It was bisected by the road leading to Wellingborough which runs north from Northampton and then takes an easterly bend, thus inclosing two sides of the park. The south boundary was formed by the Billing road, while the east boundary skirted the rectory, which was included in the parish of Weston Favell. The level of the ground rises slightly from south to north, where the highest point of 335 ft. is found: the lowest ground, about 268 ft., lies where the Wellingborough road takes a slight descent towards the centre of the parish.

Abington Hall, known as Abington Abbey,² the seat of the Bernards and Thursbys, was instituted as a private asylum in 1845 and was used for that purpose until Lady Wantage presented it with about 20 acres of land to the Northampton Corporation, who afterwards purchased an additional 4 acres comprising the park and threw it open to the public in 1897; further land was acquired in 1903, making the total area about 116 acres, and the manor-house was converted into a museum. It is a quadrangular building originally of early-16th-century date, but altered and largely rebuilt about 1675–8, and refronted on the south and east sides more than half a century later. As first built the house was apparently one room thick on all four sides of the courtyard,³ with the great hall in the south and the offices in the east wing. From the evidence of the great hall, the only part now remaining, it was a building of two stories with gables and mullioned windows, but after his acquisition of the property in 1669 William Thursby seems to have pulled down the greater part of the house and rebuilt it on a larger scale, adding in front of the old one a new south wing containing two large

rooms, staircase, and entrance.⁴ The water-tower in the park bears W. Thursby's initials and the date 1678,⁵ and this may be assumed to be approximately the time when the rebuilding of the house was completed. Some time in the 18th century the south and east wings were refronted in the plain classic style of the day, most likely by John Harvey Thursby after his succession to the estate in 1736.⁶ A few changes were made in the buildings subsequently,⁷ and after its acquisition by the Corporation of Northampton it was restored and in parts altered to adapt it to the purposes of a museum.⁸ The north and part of the west wing have been reduced to one story, and all the roofs are now covered with red tiles in place of the old Colleyweston slates.

The south and east wings are of two stories with a string at first-floor level, cornice and plain parapets, the walling being of coursed undressed stone with ashlar quoins and dressings. On the south side the ends and middle slightly project and in each front is a good pedimented doorway. The windows have moulded architraves and barred sashes, and the Thursby crest occurs on the lead rain-water heads. The great hall, which is the height of both stories,⁹ is 38 ft. 9 in. long by 21 ft. wide, with a projecting gabled bay at the north-west corner overlooking the courtyard. The bay has a mullioned window of four lights and in the wall adjoining is a similar window, both square-headed and without transoms. The doorway at the north end of the screens is now blocked and all traces of the screen itself have disappeared, probably in the 18th century, to which period the fire-place at the west end belongs. The roof is divided into four bays by plain hammer-beam principals, the beams terminating in figures of angels holding blank shields. The roof is apparently of 16th-century date, but with the exception of the windows there are no other architectural features of this period in the apartment. The bay window contains some heraldic glass removed from the old manor-house of Great Billing in about 1776, with the achievement of O'Brien, Earl of Thomond, and other arms.

At the west end of the south wing is a fine panelled room the wainscoting of which belongs to the early-16th-century house. It is chiefly of the conventional linen-fold pattern but includes some panels carved with the emblems of the Passion, the heraldic devices of the Lillings (three pikes) and the Bernards¹⁰ (a muzzled bear), rural scenes and subjects from Æsop's fables. The cornice has a running vine pattern and the frieze includes subjects illustrating the months and seasons. An Elizabethan table in this room was formerly in the old Town Hall, Northampton. No other panelling remains in the house, but the oak staircase in the south

¹ Local Govt. Board Order, no. 43, 787.

² The name 'Abbey', by which the house is now known, does not appear to have been acquired until after its sale by J. H. Thursby in 1841: Sir H. Dryden's MS. notes, Northampton Public Library.

³ The present courtyard measures 69 ft. 10 in. from north to south and 55 ft. 10 in. west to east, but whether these were the original dimensions cannot now be stated.

⁴ There is no documentary evidence of this, but the plan seems to warrant such a conclusion. The thick middle wall of the

existing south wing would be the original outer wall of the 16th-century house: Sir H. Dryden's MS. notes.

⁵ The water-tower stands some distance to the north-east of the house, near the fish-ponds, and is two stories in height with slated pyramidal roof. It is buttressed on the west side where the ground falls, and has a stairway in the south-east angle.

⁶ From the fact that a portrait of Francis Smith, architect, of Warwick, engraved by Van Haecken, is dedicated to John Harvey Thursby, it has been conjectured that Smith designed the new

fronts.

⁷ e.g. the ground-floor windows to the east of the entrance on the south side were lengthened.

⁸ In 1845 the building was opened by Dr. O. T. Pritchard as a private lunatic asylum styled 'Abington Abbey Retreat', and so continued until after the death of the third Dr. Pritchard in 1892.

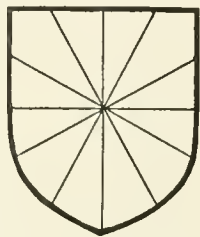
⁹ The height is given as 35 ft.

¹⁰ On one of these panels are the initials MJB, perhaps indicating the John Bernard who died in 1508 and Margaret his wife.

A HISTORY OF NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

wing is of good design with turned balusters and moulded handrail.

Only one holder of land in *ABINGTON MANOR* was recorded in the Domesday Book: this was Richard Engaine who accounted for 4 hides.¹ This estate was held of the Crown in chief for the fourth part of a knight's fee until 1509, after which date the overlordship lapsed. The manor evidently passed to Richard's grandson Richard, whose son and heir Vital married Alice de Lisors.² After his death she married as her second husband Humphrey Bassingburn;³ the latter held the 4 hides in the reign of Henry II, in right of his wife.⁴ The estate was probably settled on Fulk, second son of Vital Engaine and Alice, who took his mother's maiden name, for in 1191 William de Lisors, Fulk's son, alienated the mill appurtenant to the manor with the consent of his mother Alice, or Adeline, d'Auberville, who confirmed the grant in the same year.⁵ William died before 1199, his brother Hugh being his heir,⁶ but Abington was settled on Isabel, William's widow, who married as her second husband Ralph Berners,⁷ with reversion probably to Alice, William's mother, who had married as her second husband Nicholas Bassingburn son of Humphrey before-mentioned.⁸ Isabel Berners, a widow again by 1227,⁹ was in 1242 holding Abington of Nicholas Bassingburn,¹⁰ and in 1253 Humphrey Bassingburn, Nicholas's son, was in possession of the manor.¹¹ Humphrey joined Simon de Montfort against Henry III, and after Evesham in 1266 his manor of Abington was forfeited to the Crown and granted to Robert de Turbeville.¹² In 1268, however, Humphrey came to an agreement with Robert and regained possession of the manor.¹³ He afterwards became entangled in financial difficulties from which he was relieved by the Dowager Queen Eleanor, who in 1273 paid his debts to Elias son of Moses, a Jew of London, taking in exchange certain of his manors. Abington Manor, however, in the hands then of Philip de Horton, a Burgess of Northampton, was delivered to Humphrey, who received from the queen 20 pounds besides.¹⁴ In 1277 Humphrey settled the manor on his son Humphrey and the latter's wife Mary,¹⁵ and, dying shortly afterwards in 1280, was succeeded by his son,¹⁶ who followed him to the grave in 1298.¹⁷ The manor then became the right of Mary his widow and was held by John de Lisle, her second husband, in 1316.¹⁸ After Mary's death in 1325 it passed to her son Humphrey Bassingburn, who at the date of his mother's death was in Gascony on the king's service.¹⁹ This Humphrey confirmed to the nuns of St. Mary Delapré in 1328



BASSINGBURN. Gyronny of twelve pieces argent and gules.

an annual pension of half a mark which had been granted to them out of the manor of Abington by William son of Fulk de Lisors and confirmed earlier by Humphrey's father.²⁰ In 1330 he settled the manor on himself and his wife Alice for their lives, with reversion to Giles their eldest son and his issue and with contingent remainder to Hugh and Humphrey their younger sons.²¹ Giles died during his father's lifetime and a new settlement was made in 1344; after the death of Humphrey and Alice the manor was to pass to Alice, Giles's widow, and then to Walter son of Robert de Coleville and to Margaret his wife, daughter of Giles, in tail with contingent remainder to Robert de Coleville and his heirs, thus barring the Bassingburn line out of the entail.²² On Humphrey's death in 1348 Alice his widow continued to hold the manor²³ until she died in 1357,²⁴ when it passed to Alice, her daughter-in-law, then the wife of John de Fauconberg. Alice outlived not only her second husband but her daughter Margaret and the latter's husband Walter de Coleville, so that on her death in 1368 she was succeeded by her grandchild Robert de Coleville, then only 3 years old.²⁵ Robert died the following year and the manor passed to Ralph Basset and John Gernoun, descendants of Elizabeth and Alice, sisters of Edmund, Robert's great-grandfather.²⁶ Before, however, Ralph and John could acquire possession, Richard Bassingburn, a cousin of Giles, entered into the premises and brought an action against John Gernoun for disseisin, basing his claim to the manor on the settlement made in 1330, by which if Walter de Coleville and Margaret should die without heirs, the manor was to revert to the right heirs of Giles. The second settlement, however, of 1344 was produced and John Gernoun was confirmed in his possession.²⁷ Ralph Basset must have released his right in the manor to John Gernoun, for the latter held it in entirety and alienated it in 1386 to Sir Nicholas Lilling and Isabel his wife and their heirs.²⁸ A renewal of the Bassingburn claim was guarded against by a release made by Robert Bassingburn, probably a son of Richard, in 1389,²⁹ and in 1424 a further renunciation of all right was made by Maud wife of Richard Creek and daughter and heir of Richard Bassingburn.³⁰ Sir Nicholas Lilling died in 1419 and the manor, according to the terms of a settlement made in 1415, was then held by his widow Mary.³¹ After Mary's death the manor passed into the Bernard family; Nicholas and Mary's daughter and heir Elizabeth having married Robert Bernard. Their second son Thomas succeeded his grandmother, the reversion of the manor having been settled on him by Sir Nicholas Lilling in 1415.³² The manor remained in the Bernard family for nearly 250 years, passing from father to son in the direct line.³³ Baldwin Bernard, who was lord of the manor from 1601 to 1610, married Elizabeth

¹ *V.C.H. Northants.* i, 356.

² Baker, *Northants.* i, 9. ³ *Ibid.*

⁴ Cott. MS. Vesp. E. xxii, fol. 94.

⁵ *Anct. D. (P.R.O.), C. 276; ibid. C. 2002.* ⁶ *Ibid. C. 3534.*

⁷ *Rot. Cur. Regis (Rec. Com.), ii. 117, 267; Feet of F. Northants.* 11 Hen. III, no. 134. ⁸ Baker, *Northants.* i, 9.

⁹ *Feet of F. Northants.* 11 Hen. III, no. 134. ¹⁰ *Bk. of Fees*, 934, 945.

¹¹ *Feet of F. Northants.* 37 Hen. III, no. 642.

¹² *Cal. Rot. Chart. (Rec. Com.), 206.*

¹³ Hunter, *Rotuli Selecti*, 172.

¹⁴ *Cal. Close*, 1272-9, p. 112.

¹⁵ *Feet of F. Northants.* 5 Edw. I, no. 40.

¹⁶ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 8 Edw. I, no. 10.

¹⁷ *Feud. Aids*, iv, 16; *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 26 Edw. I (31). ¹⁸ *Feud. Aids*, iv, 23.

¹⁹ *Cal. Close*, 1323-7, p. 297.

²⁰ *Chart. R.* 2 Edw. III, m. 15, no. 47.

²¹ *De Banco R.* no. 285, m. 285 d; *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 2 Edw. III (2nd nos.), 5; *Feet of F. Northants.* 5 Edw. III, no. 91.

²² *Inq. a.q.d. file* 266, no. 13; *Feet of F. Northants.* 18 Edw. III, no. 286.

²³ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 22 Edw. III (1st nos.), 42.

²⁴ *Ibid.* 31 Edw. III (1st nos.), 36.

²⁵ *Ibid.* 42 Edw. III (1st nos.), 9.

²⁶ *Ibid.* 43 Edw. III (1st nos.), 25.

²⁷ *Assize R.* no. 1480, m. 7; *Abbrev. Rot. Orig. (Rec. Com.), ii. 303.*

²⁸ *Add. Ch. (B.M.)* 21509, 21510; *Cal. Pat.* 1385-9, p. 139.

²⁹ *Chart. R.* 13 Ric. II, pt. 1, m. 14.

³⁰ *Feet of F. Northants.* 2 Hen. VI, no. 10.

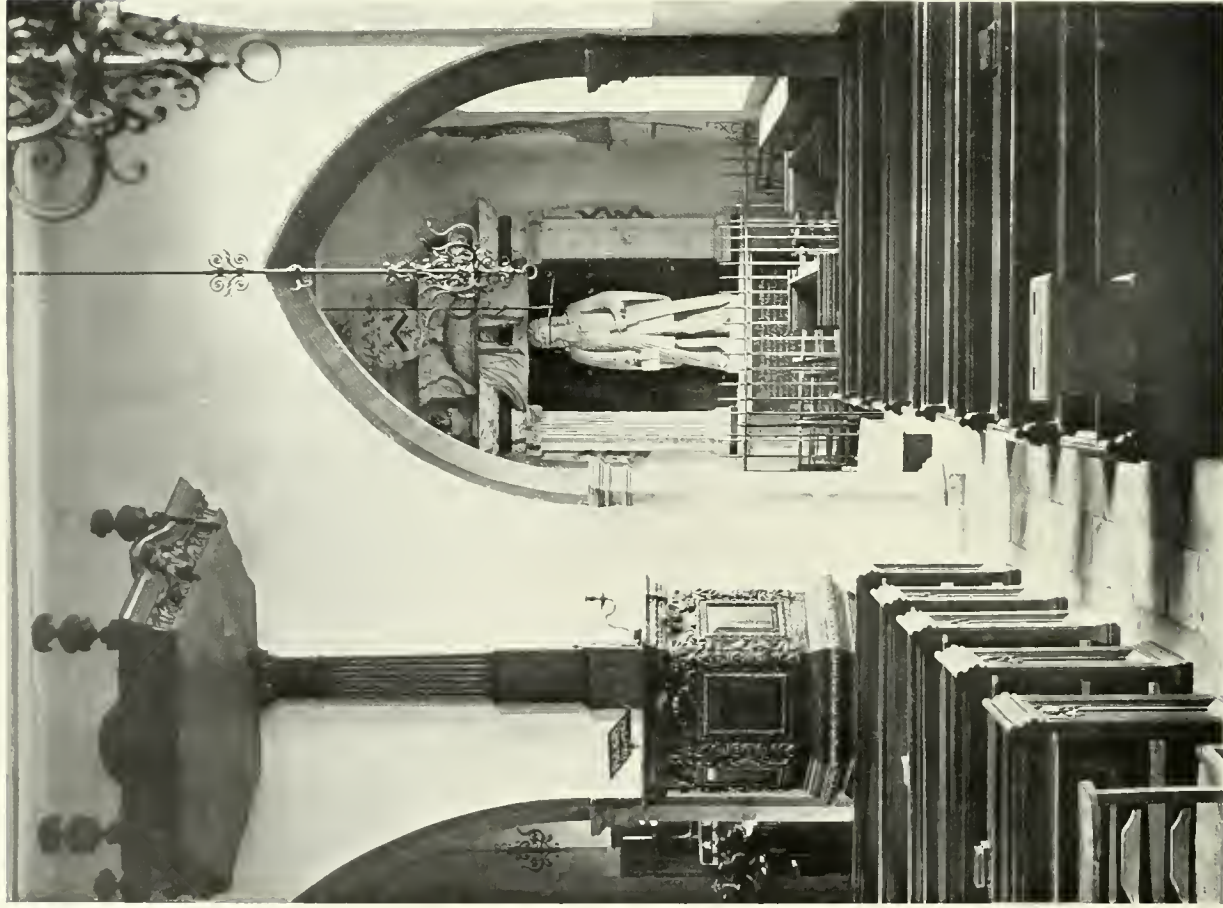
³¹ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 5 Hen. V, no. 47. This must have been his second wife.

³² *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 4 Edw. IV, no. 11.

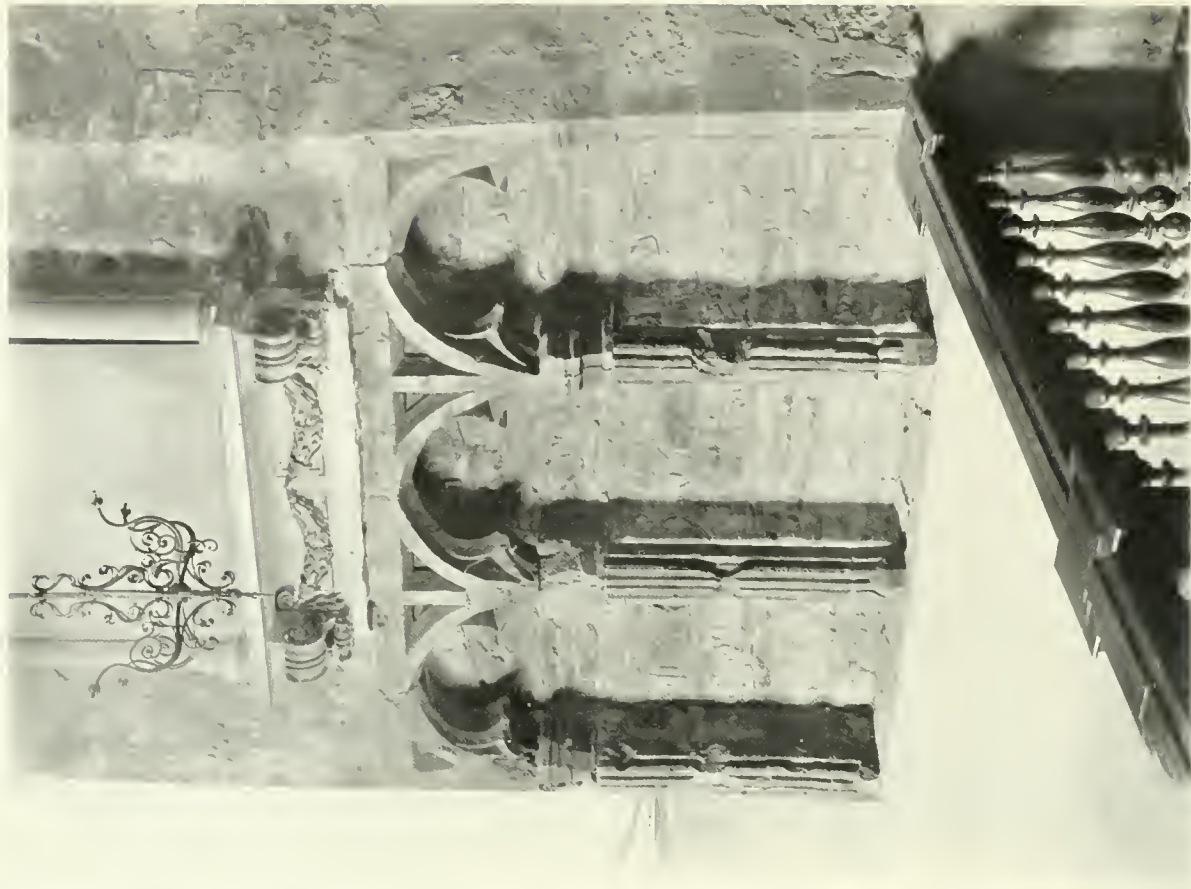
³³ *Ibid. (Ser. 2), i. 83; ibid. xii. 8; ibid. lxxxix. 104; Feet of F. Northants. Trin. 30, Eliz.; Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), cclxxi. 176.*



ABINGTON CHURCH, FROM THE SOUTH-EAST



ABINGTON CHURCH: THE PULPIT AND THURSBY MONUMENT



ABINGTON CHURCH: THE SEDILIA

daughter of John Fullwood,¹ and after his death she married Sir Edmund Hampden, one of the five knights imprisoned for having refused the loan in 1627, who died from the effects of his imprisonment and was



BERNARD. *Argent a bear rampant sable.*



THURSBY. *Argent a chevron between three lions sable.*

buried at Abington.² Baldwin's son John married as his second wife, in 1649, Elizabeth widow of Thomas Nash and daughter of William Shakespeare's favourite daughter Susannah Hall.³ After her death in 1669 the manor was sold to William Thursby of the Middle Temple, London, for £13,750.⁴ The manor remained the property of the Thursby family for nearly 200 years:⁵ for when in 1736 Richard Thursby, a nephew of the original purchaser, died without issue, and the direct line of the Thursby family had become extinct, the next of kin, John Harvey, son of Robert Harvey and Mary, a niece of William Thursby, upon whom the estate devolved according to the terms of William Thursby's will made in 1700, took the name and arms of Thursby by royal licence.⁶ The manor was purchased of the Thursby family in 1841 by Mr. Lewis Loyd. His son, Samuel Jones Loyd, who was head of the bank of Jones, Loyd & Co. and was a prominent financial authority, was created Baron Overstone in 1850. On the death of Lord Overstone in 1883⁷ this manor, with his other wide estates, was inherited by his only daughter, Harriet Sarah, whose husband, Robert James Lindsay, was created Baron Wantage of Lockinge in 1885. On the death of Lady Wantage in 1920 her estate was dispersed and sold piecemeal.

There was a mill attached to the manor at MILLS Domesday which was worth 20s.:⁸ it was alienated in 1191 by William de Lisors to Peter son of Adam of Northampton, with licence for Peter to convey it to a religious house;⁹ Peter presented it to the Hospital of the Holy Trinity or St. David at Kingsthorpe¹⁰ and it was confirmed to the hospital by Ralph Berners and Isabel his wife in 1200.¹¹ Hugh de Lisors, at the request of Henry son of Peter, also confirmed the grant in the reign of Henry III¹² and so did Humphrey Bassingburn in 1253, subject to the payment of 40s. and an annual rent of 1 pound of pepper.¹³ The mill-pond adjoined the manor of Great Houghton, and was confirmed to the hospital by Geoffrey de Pavilly in 1206.¹⁴ Two mills, both known as Abington

Mills, were leased by the hospital in 1423 to John Man, John Egle, and John Hamme, all bakers of Northampton, for an annual rent of 12 quarters of wheat and 6s. 8d.: the grantees were not to cut any willows, but might cut off 'stoccynges and shredynges' as often as they pleased.¹⁵ In 1535 these mills were valued at 66s. 8d. and an annual rent of 2s. was paid to John Bernard and 3s. to John Robins.¹⁶ At the Dissolution the mills became the property of the Crown, but a lease bearing date 1534 by which the hospital granted them to Henry Freeman and Henry Nevill for 32 years was allowed to run on, and in 1558 the reversion was granted to the hospital of the Savoy,¹⁷ who entered into possession after the expiration of the lease at Michaelmas 1566. Nevertheless, William Freeman and John Nevill, descendants of the original grantees, acquired possession of some deeds relating to the mills and refused to give them up.¹⁸ The mill came into the possession of the Thursbys, who held it at the beginning of the 18th century under the Duchy of Cornwall at a rent of £4.¹⁹ At the present day it is included in the parish of Weston Favell.

The church of *ST. PETER AND ST. CHURCH PAUL* stands within Abington Park immediately to the south-east of the hall and consists of chancel 38 ft. 2 in. by 16 ft. 2 in., with north and south chapels covering it for about half its length (the former used as an organ-chamber and vestry), nave 36 ft. 3 in. long by 44 ft. wide, south porch, and west tower 10 ft. 6 in. square: all these measurements being internal. The chapels represent extensions eastward of former aisles, and the great width of the nave is due to the removal of the arcades and the covering of the whole space west of the chancel by a single-span roof.

Bridges, *c.* 1720, described the church as consisting of a 'body, north and south ile and chancel leaded',²⁰ and old illustrations show three clerestory windows on the south side and low-pitched leaded roofs to both nave and aisle. The building fell into decay, and in 1823, when a start was made to repair it, the fabric suffered so severely in a storm that the whole of the nave and portions of the east end were taken down and rebuilt in the style of the day, the arcades being then removed.

The earliest parts of the building are the lower part of the tower and the south doorway, which are of late-12th-century date. But with the exception of the tower so little ancient work remains *in situ* that it is difficult to trace the development of the plan with certainty. It seems likely, however, that the late-12th-century church consisted of an aisleless nave, west tower, and short rectangular chancel. The chancel seems to have been rebuilt and extended in the 13th century, a single lancet, now blocked and covered by the eastern end of the chapel, remaining in the north wall. Aisles may have first been added at the same time, but the evidence as to the destroyed arcades is conflicting.²¹ A good deal of alteration was done in the 15th century, the tower being heightened, a clerestory added, and new windows

¹ Feet of F. Northants. Trin. 1 Jas. I; Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), cccix, 202.

² From Bk. of Deeds belonging to Ishams of Lamport.

³ *Dict. Nat. Biog.*; Feet of F. Northants. East. 1657; *ibid.* Trin. 20 Chas. II; *ibid.* Hil. 21 and 22 Chas. II.

⁴ Bridges, *Northants.* i, 400.

⁵ *Recov. R.* Trin. 10 Geo. II, m. 128; Feet of F. Northants. Hil. 17 Geo. II; *ibid.* East. 36 Geo. III.

⁶ Burke, *Landed Gentry*, 9th ed.

⁷ G.E.C. *Complete Peerage* (1st ed.), vi, 159.

⁸ *F.C.H. Northants.* i, 356.

⁹ *Anct. D.* (P.R.O.), C. 276.

¹⁰ *Ibid.* C. 2002.

¹¹ *Rot. Cur. Reg.* (Rec. Com.), ii, 117, 267.

¹² *Anct. D.* (P.R.O.), C. 3534; *ibid.* C. 2004.

¹³ Feet of F. Northants. 37 Hen. III, no. 642.

¹⁴ *Anct. D.* (P.R.O.), C. 2019.

¹⁵ *Ibid.* 3510.

¹⁶ *Valor Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), iv, 322.

¹⁷ *Pat. R.* 3 & 4 Ph. and M. pt. 12.

¹⁸ *Chan. Proc.* (Ser. 2), bde. 162, no. 70.

¹⁹ *Baker, Northants.* i, 7.

²⁰ *Hist. of Northants.* i, 402.

²¹ They are said to have been Perpendicular; but Baker states that the arches had 'deep plain mouldings supported by cylindrical pillars with octagonal capitals': *Hist. of Northants.* i, 14.

A HISTORY OF NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

inserted. The aisles may have been rebuilt at the same time, but the fact that the south chapel is 2 ft. narrower than that on the north would seem to indicate that when in the 15th-century reconstruction the south aisle was rebuilt on the old foundation the north aisle was widened. The altar of St. Mary is thought to have been in the north chapel,¹ which appears to have been extended about 9 ft. eastward. The south doorway, which is of Transitional Norman character, with a pointed arch of three square orders on moulded imposts, was moved outward to its present position when the aisle was added. A double lancet window in the north wall of the north chapel was probably moved from the chancel, or may have been in the original aisle.

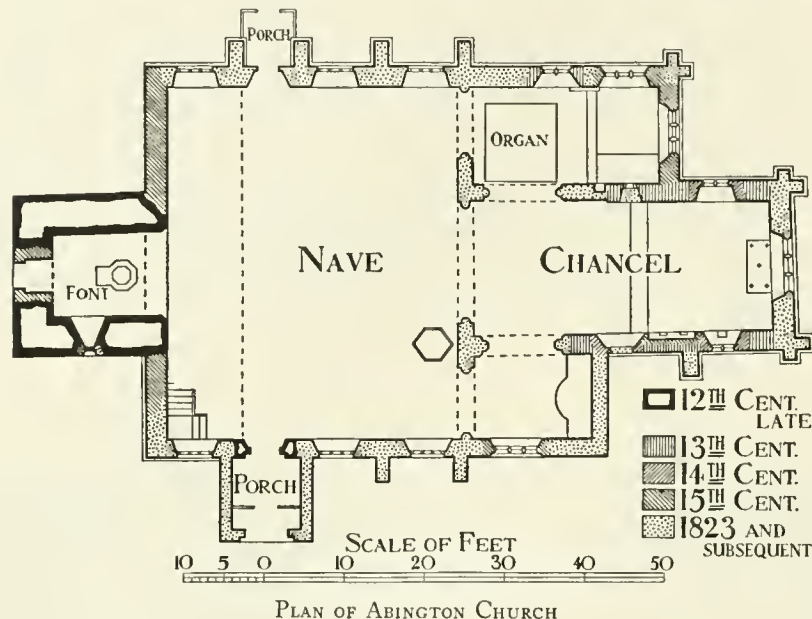
The east wall of the chancel has been rebuilt above

plinth. In the east wall, north of the window, is a stone bracket or corbel for an image.

The walls of the south chapel have been entirely rebuilt, but the four-centred window of three lights on the south side is an old one re-used. The east wall is blank. All the windows of the nave have wooden frames, and both nave and chancel have flat plaster ceilings and plastered walls. The chancel arch and those between the chapels and the nave are plastered, and there is a west gallery the full width of the building.

The tower is of four stages without buttresses, and, like the rest of the building, of rubble with dressed quoins. The original lower stages are marked by strings, but the upper story is distinguished only by the change in the character of the masonry and of its architectural

features. It has an embattled parapet and bell-chamber windows of two trefoiled lights with a sexfoil in the head and transom at mid-height. The two-light west window and four-centred doorway are 15th-century insertions, but an original window, modernized externally, remains in the lower story on the south side, and in the third stage on three sides are the now blocked upper windows of the old tower.⁴ On the west face of the third stage is a large sun-dial in a square stone panel, probably placed in this position so that it could be seen from the Hall.⁵ The tower arch is pointed and of two square orders on hollow-chamfered imposts. Above it are the royal



PLAN OF ABINGTON CHURCH

the plinth and has a stepped gable and modern pointed window of three lights with mullions crossing in the head. In the north wall is a square-headed 14th-century window of two trefoiled lights and west of it the blocked lancet already mentioned. West of this a modern arch opens to the organ-chamber.² On the south side is a square-headed window similar to that on the north, the jambs of which are modern. Farther west is another window now blocked. The piscina and sedilia³ are of 15th-century date, the former with plain pointed head and the latter, three in number, with trefoiled heads and detached moulded shafts. An aumbry in the north wall has been plastered over. An old altar slab is kept in the chancel. The communion rails are of 18th-century date.

The north chapel has a pointed east window of three cinquefoiled lights and quatrefoil in the head and on the north side a three-light window without tracery, west of which is the double lancet already referred to. The walls at the east end of the chapel are old, but farther west the north wall has been rebuilt above the

arms of the Stuart sovereigns.

The font is of 15th-century date, with octagonal panelled bowl and stem: it has a pyramidal oak cover. The oak pulpit was presented by Thomas Rocke⁶ in the latter part of the 17th century, and is hexagonal in shape with panelled sides and tester, richly carved.

In the south chapel is an elaborate marble monument to William Thursby (d. 1700), with statue by Samuel Cox, and tablets to J. Harvey Thursby (d. 1798) and his wife (name not stated), and in the north chapel monuments to Downhall Thursby (d. 1706) and Richard Thursby (d. 1736). The table tomb of Sir Edmund Hampden (d. 1627) in this chapel (vestry) is now boarded over. On the south of the chancel is a floor-slab, removed in 1918 from the north side, with the remains of a fine brass in memory of William Mayle (d. 1536) and Margaret his wife (d. 1567), which formerly had figures of husband and wife, ten sons, and three daughters. The daughters alone are left, the rest of the figures having been stripped from the matrices.⁷ There are mural monuments in the chancel

¹ Baker, *op. cit.*

² Baker says that the north chapel was originally separated from the chancel by two arches on a pillar similar to those of the nave but lower.

³ Discovered during the incumbency of the Rev. L. H. Loyd (1869-77).

⁴ Those on the north and east are

round-headed, that on the south pointed. In an opening in the second stage, south side, a lintel with the date 1673 has been inserted.

⁵ It is of 18th-century date, but the painted numerals have disappeared.

⁶ Thomas Rocke was clerk to William Thursby, with whom he lived for upwards

of forty years. He died in 1715. There is a tablet to him in the church.

⁷ The brasses were there in Bridges' time (*op. cit.* i, 403, where the inscription is given). Other monuments mentioned by Bridges have disappeared, as well as a considerable amount of painted glass.

to Sir Robert Bernard, Kt. (d. 1666), Baldwin Bernard (d. 1610), J. H. Thursby (d. 1764), and Henry Lowth.

There are three bells in the tower, all by John Briant of Hertford: the treble dated 1809, the second 1811, and the tenor 1810. There is also a priest's bell dated 1764.¹

The plate consists of a silver cup of 1805, and a silver-plated paten and bread-holder. The old plate was stolen early in the 19th century. It included a chalice, paten, and two flagons, all silver gilt, presented by William Thursby about 1685.²

The registers before 1812 are as follows: (i) baptisms and burials 1637-1763, marriages 1637-1757; (ii) baptisms and burials 1764-1812; (iii) marriages June 1754 to October 1811.³ The volume mentioned by Bridges, beginning in 1558, has been lost.

In the churchyard is a calvary cross and crucifix to the memory of the Rev. H. W. M. Gunning, rector 1900-16.

Abington Church is not mentioned *AD'OWSON* in Domesday and the earliest record of it occurs in 1224 when Isabel de Lisors, lady of the manor, presented Peter of Irchester.⁴ The advowson remained appendant to the manor. In 1380 Richard II presented to the church as the custody of the land and one of the heirs of Ralph Basset was in his hand,⁵ but in 1386 Bromhall Priory received from the king a grant of the advowson of Abington Church, then worth £10, with licence for the Prioress and nuns

to appropriate it.⁶ This grant apparently did not take effect, for in the same year the advowson was transferred with the manor to Sir Nicholas Lilling⁷ and its history since then has been identical with that of the manor until 1921, when it was devised to the Bishop of Peterborough by the will of Lady Wantage.

In 1291 the value of the church was £6 13s. 4d.⁸ but by 1386 this had increased to £10:⁹ in 1535 it was assessed at £20 10s. 7d.¹⁰

Church Land. On the inclosure of *CHARITIES* the parish 8 acres of land were allotted to the churchwardens in lieu of open fields appropriated to the repairs of the church. The land was sold in 1895 and the proceeds invested, producing £136 9s. yearly in dividends.

Richard Palmer in 1718 gave a sum of money for the benefit of the poor. The dividends amount to 10s. yearly.

Mary Palmer's Charity, founded by will dated 29 April 1731, is regulated by a scheme of the Charity Commissioners dated 1 December 1911. The endowment produces £3 yearly in dividends.

Stephen Hawke in 1778 gave £20 to the poor. This sum with accumulations produces £1 1s. yearly.

These three charities are administered by the rector and churchwardens and the income is distributed in sums of 10s. to the deserving poor.

The several sums of stock are with the Official Trustees of Charitable Funds.

GREAT BILLING

Bellinge (xi-xii cents.).

The parish of Great Billing covers about 1,386 acres. The soil varies but is composed mainly of red loam while the subsoil is ironstone with some limestone: the crops are the usual cereals.

On the north, where the parish skirts Overstone Park for some little distance, an elevation of 357 ft. is reached and from there the land falls to 301 ft. about the centre of the parish, where the village lies, thence falling sharply to 174 ft. in the extreme south which is bounded by the River Nene. The low land lying along the river, which is liable to floods, forms part of the Northampton Irrigation Farm which extends into Ecton parish. A feeder of the River Nene, which flows out of the lake in Overstone Park, forms the western boundary for the greater part and passes by Billing Lings, to the north-west of the village, where Lord John Cavendish, the owner of Billing at the end of the 18th century, constructed a private racecourse.¹¹

Slightly south of the road from Northampton to Wellingborough, which passes through the centre of the parish, lies the village on the slope of the hill running down to the river; on the west, at the entrance, stands Billing Hall, surrounded by extensive grounds in which

there are some remarkable trees. Billing Hall was described by Bridges about 1720 as 'an handsome old house with pleasant gardens adjoining it'.¹² About 1776 Lord John Cavendish 'completely transformed it from the Jacobean mansion that it was into the solid block it now is'.¹³ It stands on high ground to the east of the church and is a large plain three-storied building of Kingsthorpe stone, with hipped roof and barred sash windows.¹⁴ Many of the old walls were left standing when the house was rebuilt, one of which divides the main building into halves; and in the course of extensive internal alterations in 1909, in removing some masonry in the great hall, an exterior wall of the Jacobean house was revealed, with two mullioned windows in an excellent state of preservation.¹⁵ Additions to the house have been made from time to time, chiefly by Robert Cary Elwes. The Hall was sold in 1930 by Mr. Geoffrey Elwes and, a project for converting it into a home for indigent musicians in memory of Gervase Elwes having failed, it was sold again in 1935 to Mr. Hancock, a shoe-manufacturer of Northampton, and by him to Mr. J. P. B. Miller, who has pulled down part of the Hall.

In the village is a bronze memorial tablet to Gervase

¹ North, *Ch. Bells of Northants.* 174. In 1552 there were three bells and a sanctus bell. Of the three bells in Bridges's time the tenor was inscribed 'Sum rosa pulsata mundi Maria vocata', and the second 'In multis annis resonet campana Johannis'. The bell frame is marked I.B. 1695.

² Markham, *Ch. Plate of Northants.* 1. No marriages in 1812; the next volume begins in 1813.

³ *Rot. Hug. de Welles* (Cant. and York Soc.), ii, 124, 211; *Pat. R.* 1216-25, p. 592.

⁵ *Cal. Pat.* 1377-81, p. 444.

⁶ *Ibid.* 1385-9, p. 164.

⁷ *Cal. Pat.* 1385-9, p. 139.

⁸ *Pope Nich. Tax.* (Rec. Com.), 40, 43.

⁹ *Cal. Pat.* 1385-9, p. 164.

¹⁰ *Palor Eccles.* (Rec. Com.), iv, 324.

¹¹ Baker, *Northants.* i, 18. The racecourse is said to have been subsequently reconstructed by Robert Cary Elwes.

¹² *Hist. of Northants.* i, 406.

¹³ Elwes, *Life of Gervase Elwes* (1935), 10: 'all the rooms but one were stripped of their oak panelling and the building was

thoroughly Georgianized both inside and out.'

¹⁴ It is said to have been designed by John Carr, of York: Baker, *Hist. of Northants.* i, 24. The south-west front is covered completely by one wistaria tree of most unusual size: Elwes, *op. cit.* 11. Some heraldic glass from the old house is now at Abington Hall (q.v.).

¹⁵ Elwes, *op. cit.* 190: the old wall was of 'deep yellow local stone'. Other discoveries of Jacobean work were made during the alterations.

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Elwes (d. 1921), the 'beloved squire' and famous singer.

About a mile south from the village the river is crossed by a stone bridge of some antiquity which was formerly of great importance as part of the thoroughfare from Northampton to Horton on the London road. In 1274 Roger de Wanton was accused of having appropriated to himself for the last four years the tolls of the millstones taken into Northampton, 2d. being exacted from each pair.¹ The *Liber Custumarum* of Northampton, drawn up about 1460, orders 'all merchants to pay customs at Byllyng brygge',² and Justinian Bracegirdle, rector of Great Billing, who died in 1625, left money towards keeping the bridge in good repair.³ Baker mentions that the tolls, then called the Duchy Tolls, were paid to the Earl of Pomfret in 1820, the bridge being repaired to the centre arch by Billing parish and beyond by Brafield and Houghton.⁴

The mill held by St. James's Abbey during the Middle Ages lies on the river to the west of the bridge.

Part of the parish was inclosed under an Act passed in 1778.⁵ In 1935 Great and Little Billing were combined to form the civil parish of Billing.

There is a Roman Catholic church, dedicated to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, which was built as a Village Hall by the late Mr. Robert Elwes and was converted to its present use in 1878 by Mr. Cary Elwes, and enlarged in 1926. There is a small Methodist chapel.

In 1086 Gilbert the Cook held Billing of *MANOR* the king⁶ but the estate escheated to the

Crown and was granted in moieties, one of which passed to the Mortimers, Earls of March, probably on the marriage of Milicent, daughter of Robert Earl Ferrers, with Roger Mortimer who died in 1215.⁷ This part of the overlordship remained vested in the Mortimers, as of their honor of Wigmore, and was finally merged in the Crown in the person of Edward IV.⁸ The other moiety was apparently bestowed upon William Meschines, and passed by marriage into the de Courci family in the reign of Henry II,⁹ and afterwards through the Fitzgeralds and de Redvers, Earls of Devon, to the de Forz, Earls of Albemarle, on the failure of whose line in 1293 it was inherited by the Lisles of Rougemont.¹⁰ In 1368 Robert Lisle granted the whole honor to Edward III,¹¹ by whom four years after it was bestowed upon John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster,¹² and this moiety of the overlordship was also merged in the Crown by the accession of the latter's son to the throne as Henry IV in 1399.

The manor of *BILLING* was in the possession of the family of Barry from the middle of the 12th century until the beginning of the reign of Richard II, but little

is known of the earlier members. Their chief seat was at Stanton Barry, Buckinghamshire.¹³ William Barry, who gave Billing Church to Leicester Abbey, held 1 fee of the de Courcy barony in 1166.¹⁴ Ralph, who held land in Billing in 1181,¹⁵ died before 1202, and his successor Simon, probably his brother, in 1221.¹⁶ On the death of Simon's son Ralph the manor passed to his brother Peter,¹⁷ who was holding it in 1240.¹⁸ Peter's son, Robert Barry, was accused in 1274 of not having paid suit to the hundred court for the last three years.¹⁹ In 1309 he settled the manor on his son Thomas²⁰ and died c. 1320,²¹ his wife Maud surviving until c. 1326.²² Thomas, his son, died in 1325 leaving a widow Pernel and a son, Robert, then a minor.²³ Robert died before 1349, the date of the death of his widow Cecily, when their son William, then 7 years old, inherited the manor²⁴ and was in possession in 1368.²⁵ Stanton Barry was in the hands of William in 1377 and was inherited by his daughter Pernel, the wife of Hugh Boveton of Yardley Gobion,²⁶ but Billing must have been alienated by William before his death as in 1399 it was in the possession of Peter Barentyn²⁷ and was subsequently acquired by Sir Nicholas Lilling, who in 1411 made a settlement of it to himself and his wife Mary for life, and after their deaths to Margaret Holand, Countess of Somerset.²⁸ Sir Nicholas died in 1417,²⁹ and after the death of his wife the manor became the right of the Countess of Somerset, passing to her grand-daughter and heir Margaret Beaufort, Countess of Richmond, mother of Henry VII, who married as her third husband, in 1482, Thomas Lord Stanley, afterwards Earl of Derby, upon whom she settled the manor.³⁰ On the accession of Richard III her lands were forfeited, and the reversion of the manor granted to John de la Pole, Earl of Lincoln,³¹ the king's favourite nephew, but the grant was never realized, for while the life-tenant, Sir Thomas Stanley, was still alive, Henry VII acquired the throne and annulled the act of forfeiture.³² On the death of Margaret Countess of Richmond and Derby in 1509, a few months after that of her son, the manor passed to Henry VIII, as grandson and heir,³³ and by him was granted in 1513 to Sir John Ferneux, with licence to alienate it in mortmain to the Dean and Canons of St. George's, Windsor Castle.³⁴ This grant, however, must afterwards have been rescinded by the king, who in 1525 bestowed the manor upon his illegitimate son, Henry Duke of Richmond.³⁵ The latter



BARRY. Azure two leopards or.

¹ *Hund. R.* (Rec. Com.), ii, 13, 15.

² C. A. Markham, *Liber Custumarum of Northampton*.

³ Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), cccclxxxix, no. 142.

⁴ Baker, *Northants.* i, 18.

⁵ Acts Priv. and Loc., 18 Geo. III, cap. 10.

⁶ *V.C.H. Northants.* i, 355.

⁷ G.E.C. *Peerage*; Dugdale, *Baronage*, i, 128. No reference to the Ferrers overlordship of Billing can be found, but it is most probable that this land passed, as in other cases, to the Mortimers through the Ferrers.

⁸ *Bk. of Fees*, 497, 934; *Feud. Aids*, iv, 16; Chan. Inq. p.m. 32 Edw. I, no. 63; *ibid.* 34 Edw. III (1st nos.), 86; *ibid.* 22 Rich. II, no. 34; *ibid.* 3 Hen. VI, no. 32.

⁹ Hearne, *Liber Niger*, i, 91; Dugdale, *Baronage*, ii, 451.

¹⁰ G.E.C. *Peerage*; *Abbrev. Plac.* (Rec. Com.), 160; *Testa de Nevill* (Rec. Com.), 23; *Feud. Aids*, iv, 16.

¹¹ *Cal. Close*, 1364-9, pp. 496, 498.

¹² *Abbrev. Rot. Orig.* (Rec. Com.), ii, 321. ¹³ *V.C.H. Bucks.* iv, 462.

¹⁴ Hearne, *Liber Niger*, i, 91.

¹⁵ Pipe R. 27 Hen. II, m. 5.

¹⁶ *Ibid.* Beds. and Bucks. 5 Hen. III, m. 4 d.

¹⁷ Cott. MS. Tib. E. v, fols. 101, 102; Cott. MS. Vesp. E. xvii, fol. 62.

¹⁸ Feet of F. Northants. 24 Hen. III, no. 387; *Bk. of Fees*, 931.

¹⁹ *Hund. R.* (Rec. Com.), ii, 13.

²⁰ Inq. a. q. d. file lxxviii, no. 6; Feet of F. Northants. 5 Edw. II, no. 113.

²¹ Orig. R. 14 Edw. II, m. 11.

²² Chan. Inq. p.m. 19 Edw. II, no. 41.

²³ *Ibid.* 18 Edw. II, no. 63; *Abbrev. Rot. Orig.* (Rec. Com.), i, 295.

²⁴ Chan. Inq. p.m. 23 Edw. III (pt. 1), no. 24.

²⁵ *Abbrev. Rot. Orig.* (Rec. Com.), ii, 300.

²⁶ *V.C.H. Bucks.* iv, 463.

²⁷ Chan. Inq. p.m. 22 Rich. II, no. 34.

²⁸ Feet of F. Northants. 12 Hen. IV, no. 97.

²⁹ Chan. Inq. p.m. 5 Hen. V, no. 47.

³⁰ G.E.C. *Peerage*.

³¹ *Cal. Pat.* 1496-85, p. 388.

³² *Rot. Parl.* (Rec. Com.), vi, 311.

³³ Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), xxv, 63.

³⁴ *L. and P. Hen. VIII*, i, 666.

³⁵ Pat. R. 17 Hen. VIII, pt. 2, m. 9.

dying without issue a few years later the manor reverted to the Crown, to which it remained attached for about 50 years. The site and demesne lands were demised to various persons from time to time, Thomas King and Richard Fisher receiving a 21-years' lease in 1545,¹ the latter receiving a further grant from Elizabeth at an annual rent of £7 13s. 4d.² In 1566 Charles Howard, Lord Effingham, obtained a lease of 21 years in reversion at the same annual rent,³ but in 1577 Thomas Tallis, the musician, who had served the queen and her ancestors for almost 40 years, and William Byrd, his more famous pupil, petitioned the queen for a lease of Crown lands in reversion for 21 years, of the yearly value of £40, and among the lands granted, in answer to their request, were the site and demesne lands of Billing.⁴ In 1588 the manor and the reversion of the site were sold to Alexander King and Thomas Crumpton⁵ with licence to alienate them to John Freeman of Ecton, who acquired possession in 1590.⁶ The reversionary interest in the site of the manor, which had changed hands many times between 1577 and 1596, was the cause of a dispute in the latter year between John Freeman and Anthony Jenkinson, decided in favour of Freeman,⁷ who died seised of the manor in 1615. By his will, dated 25 February 1614, he left £2,000 to be invested in land for the endowment of two fellowships in Clare Hall, Cambridge, worth £26 each p.a., and eight scholarships of £6 each, to which his kinsmen were to be first preferred and, failing such, scholars born in Northants. and Lincoln. On his death the manor, which was then worth £12 p.a., was inherited by his grand-daughter Katharine the wife of Sir Edward Gorges, bart.,⁸ afterwards Baron Dundalk, who about 1628 sold Billing to Sir Barnaby O'Brien, a descendant of the Kings of Thomond.⁹ He became Earl of Thomond in 1639 on the death of his brother without male issue and in 1645 was created Marquess of Billing, but the patent never came into force.¹⁰ The manor remained in the family for several generations,¹¹ but a descendant, George Earl of Egremont, sold it in 1776 to a son of William Duke of Devonshire, Lord John Cavendish,¹² after whose death, in 1796, Billing was sold to Robert Cary Elwes of Roxby, Lincoln, by Lord John's brother, Lord Frederick Cavendish in 1799.¹³ From that date the manor remained in the Elwes family until the property was sold in 1930.

Many by-laws and regulations were drawn up at the courts of the manor held during the 16th century. At one of these in 1551 it was ordered that no man was to keep more than 30 sheep or 5 cows to a virgate,¹⁴ and rules as to stubble and pasture were strictly enforced. The extravagant cutting of furze and gorse caused an order forbidding the further gathering for two years. No man was to put a mare and foal above the age of a

month in the common fields, unless both were tethered; and the needs of the tenants were duly recorded and industrial implements supplied to them.¹⁵ In 1562 it was laid down that for each sheepfold there were to be 8½ yards of land and that each husbandman was to sow yearly, for every yard of land, 1 peck of peas.¹⁶

The Barry family were great benefactors to the religious houses in Northampton and the mill which was attached to the manor at the Domesday Survey, then worth 20s.,¹⁷ was bestowed in the 12th century upon St. James's Abbey by Simon son of Ralph Barry for a yearly rent of 3 marks and a payment of 70 marks towards the expenses of his pilgrimage to Rome.¹⁸ The abbey continued to hold the mill until the Dissolution, after which it descended with the manor.¹⁹ The abbey subsequently received a virgate of land from Robert, parson of Billing and brother of Simon.²⁰ In the next century Ralph, Simon's son, lord of the manor, bestowed upon the abbey all the land that William Lovel held, and Robert son of Alexander, another member of the family, gave them land in a field called Depedalehul.²¹ In 1241 Peter, Ralph's brother, granted the abbey 16s. rent in Billing²² and in 1274 the abbot was said to have built a fulling-mill at Billing, by which great loss was caused to the king and the town of Northampton.²³ The value of the abbey's possessions in Billing was £2 16s. in 1291,²⁴ but they were returned as worth only 17s. in 1535²⁵ and were absorbed in the Crown lands at the surrender of St. James's Abbey in 1538.²⁶ The mill was afterwards leased for varying periods and one of the lessees, Thomas Nicolls, complained in the reign of Edward VI that a stream of water was diverted from the main river to the great harm of the mill by George Fisher, bailiff of Arthur Longueville.²⁷ In 1551 it was laid down by the court of the manor that 'the myller there shall serve the tenants before forreners and make them of their greyne good meyle and use them with reasonable toll'.²⁸ In 1568 the mill was granted to Thomas son of Thomas Nicolls and to John Smith for a term of 21 years at a yearly rent of £3 8s. 4d.²⁹

The Barry family were benefactors to St. Andrew's Priory also, for Simon son of Ralph bestowed a virgate upon it, formerly held by Simon Mason.³⁰ A charter confirming this gift by Simon's son Ralph³¹ was inspected in 1316, when the bailiff of the hundred exacted suit from the tenement.³² In 1291 the priory's possessions in Billing were estimated at £1³³ and in 1443 it received 16s. as rent of the tenement.³⁴ In 1535 the priory's estate in Great Billing was worth 7s. 0½d.,³⁵ and it was merged in the Crown lands on the surrender of the monastery in 1538.³⁶

In 1223 Alexander son of Ralph Barry bestowed upon Sulby Abbey 1 pound of wax for providing lights in the dormitory of the brothers,³⁷ to be taken every Michaelmas

¹ *L. and P. Hen. VIII*, xx (1), p. 422.

² Aug. Off. Partic. for Leases, Mix. Cos. R. 14, f. 31.

³ Aug. Off. Partic. for Leases in Reversion, 1577, bdlc. 12.

⁴ *Ibid.*; *Dict. Nat. Biog.*, Byrd.

⁵ Pat. R. 30 Eliz. pt. 8, m. 24.

⁶ *Ibid.* 32 Eliz. pt. 5, m. 28.

⁷ Chan. Proc. Eliz. F. f. 3, no. 45.

⁸ Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), ccxcix, 157; Bridges, *Northants.* i, 408; *Northants. N. and Q.*, i, 46. Katharine was daughter and heir of Margaret Osborne, the wife of Sir Robert Osborne, bt., and only daughter and heir of John Freeman.

⁹ Baker, *Northants.* i, 20.

¹⁰ G.E.C. *Peerage* (2nd ed.), ii, 177.

¹¹ Feet of F. Northants. Mich. 1651; Recov. R. East. 26 Chas. II, 20, 3; Bridges, *Northants.* i, 406.

¹² Whellan, *Northants.* 223.

¹³ G.E.C. *Peerage*; Burke, *Commoners*, ii, 463.

¹⁴ Ct. R. (P.R.O.), portf. 195, no. 78.

¹⁵ *Ibid.* portf. 195, no. 79.

¹⁶ *Ibid.* portf. 194, no. 55.

¹⁷ *P.C.H. Northants.* i, 355.

¹⁸ Cott. MS. Tib. E. v, fols. 101, 102.

¹⁹ Chan. Inq. p.m. 18 Edw. II, no. 63; *ibid.* 23 Edw. III (pt. 1), no. 24; Baker, *Northants.* i, 18.

²⁰ Cott. MS. Tib. E. v, fol. 118.

²¹ *Ibid.* fols. 117, 118.

²² Feet of F. Northants. 24 Hen. III,

no. 383.

²³ *Hund. R.* (Rec. Com.), ii, 13.

²⁴ *Pope Nich. Tax.* (Rec. Com.), 55.

²⁵ *Valor Eccles.* (Rec. Com.), iv, 319.

²⁶ *P.C.H. Northants.* ii, 129.

²⁷ Aug. Off. Proc. 33/38.

²⁸ Ct. R. (P.R.O.), portf. 195, no. 78.

²⁹ Aug. Off. Enrol. of Leases, 19 Eliz. no. 28, no. 18.

³⁰ Cott. MS. Vesp. E. xvii, fol. 61.

³¹ *Ibid.*, fol. 62.

³² *Ibid.* 62 d.

³³ *Pope Nich. Tax.* (Rec. Com.), 55.

³⁴ *Muns. Accts.* bdlc. 1, 108, no. 21.

³⁵ *Valor Eccles.* (Rec. Com.), iv, 313.

³⁶ *L. and P. Hen. VIII*, xiii, 151.

³⁷ Add. Ch. 21537.

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from the toft which Alwin Pruin held, a gift which was confirmed by his son Robert about 20 years later.¹

Other lands in Billing were held by the priory of Bradwell, Bucks., and were of the yearly value of 16*s*. in 1291.² In 1526 Cardinal Wolsey received a grant of the priory and its possessions³ and in 1528 he bestowed them upon his college at Oxford,⁴ but the gift probably never took effect, as after Wolsey's disgrace in 1531 they were given by the king to the priory of Sheen, Surrey.⁵ The priory of Sheen surrendered in 1539,⁶ and its possessions, including the lands in Billing, were given to Arthur Longueville in 1543,⁷ whose ancestors held land in Great Billing⁸ and had been patrons of Bradwell Priory.⁹ A survey of the priory's possessions, taken in this reign, mentions the estate in Billing as consisting of a messuage and an orchard with a yardland, held at will by Edward More, a husbandman, at the yearly rent of 16*s*. The dwelling-house itself was in decay for want of walling and large timber, and the outbuildings were all ruinous. The only trees on the ground were apple-trees.¹⁰

The church of *ST. ANDREW* stands *CHURCH* in a somewhat isolated position on the west side of the village, commanding a pleasant view to the south and south-west across the Nene Valley. Originally it was within the village, but a former lord of the manor diverted a road and got rid of the cottages adjoining the church so as to increase the quiet and amenity of his abode,¹¹ leaving the building standing alone in a field just outside the park wall.

The fabric consists of chancel, 29 ft. by 14 ft.; clerestoried nave of four bays, 44 ft. 6 in. by 14 ft. 10 in.; north and south aisles, 9 ft. 6 in. wide; south porch; and west tower, 10 ft. square: all these measurements being internal. There is also a chapel, now used as an organ-chamber and vestry, on the north side of the chancel, 24 ft. 6 in. by 14 ft. 6 in., built in the 18th century as the burial-place of the lords of the manor.

The earliest part of the building is the middle pier of the north arcade which is of late-12th-century date, the only remaining fragment *in situ* of a Norman church whose dimensions can only be conjectured, but which at least must have had a north aisle. The pier is circular, with square abacus, early leaf ornament in the capital and moulded base with foot ornaments. The rest of the building is mainly of c. 1290–1300, to which period the chancel, nave arcades, and tower belong. The south aisle appears to have been largely rebuilt in the 15th century, the doorway being of that date. The tower was formerly surmounted by a spire, which, being struck by lightning in April 1759, fell on the church, doing great damage. It was never rebuilt and the tower now terminates in a plain parapet into which semi-classic panels from the old house of the Thomonds, rebuilt in 1776, have been introduced. About this time the exterior of the building seems to have assumed the appearance it has since to a large extent preserved, the rubble walls being covered with stucco¹² and 18th-century urn ornaments and other classic features added. The parapets of the nave and aisles are plain, but the former are ornamented in the same way as that of the tower. The roofs are low pitched and leaded.

The chancel has an east window of three trefoiled lights, with internal angle shafts, but the mullions and tracery have been renewed, and in the north wall are two original square-headed windows now opening to the vestry. The two windows on the south side are modern, and between them is a priest's doorway. The two modern pointed arches to the vestry take the place of a former round-headed one of 18th-century date.¹³ The chancel arch is of two chamfered orders, the inner springing from half-octagonal responds with moulded capitals and bases, like those of the nave arcades. The chancel walls are plastered and there is a plaster ceiling. No ancient ritual arrangements are visible. In the east gable outside is a panel with the initials of Lionel Moody, rector, dated 1687, probably recording some repairs to the chancel at that time.

The arches of the nave arcades are of unequal span, the two westernmost on either side being of less width than the others, and all slightly vary from one another. The north arcade seems to have been set out from the middle column, which was perhaps the easternmost one of the Norman church, the western limit of which would be retained, and the south aisle would follow. The pillars on the north are circular, but the moulded capitals and bases of the two outer ones are similar to those of the Early Decorated piers of the south arcade. The arches are all pointed and of two chamfered orders, with a plain hood-mould terminating in heads. On the south the pillars have a triple shaft on each face, and the hood-mould over the second arch from the east consists of nail-head ornament, no doubt from the remains of the late-12th-century church. There are also two mask terminations used on this side.

The windows of the aisles and clerestory are all modern, but at the east end of the south aisle is a 14th-century reredos consisting of three crocketed ogee niches: the middle recess, which is higher than the others, is said to have contained an inscription in distemper,¹⁴ but this is no longer visible. The north aisle is open at its east end to the vestry by a modern arch, and the walls being all plastered internally no ritual arrangements in connexion with the aisle altars can now be traced.

The tower is of three stages with short diagonal buttresses and a tall lancet window on the west side in the lower stage. The middle stage has small trefoil-headed windows north and west, and the bell-chamber openings are of two trefoiled lights with hood-moulds. The tower arch is of three orders, the inner resting on responds with moulded capitals and bases. The porch is of 18th-century date, but has since been rebuilt. It has a semicircular arch with gable and urn ornaments. The inner pointed doorway has a crocketed hood-mould terminating in blank shields.

The octagonal pillar font is of late-15th-century date, with panelled sides and moulded top. The pulpit, chancel screen, and other fittings are modern.

In the chapel, or vestry, against the north wall is an elaborate marble monument to Henry, 7th Earl of Thomond, who died at Great Billing in 1691, with figures of the Earl and Countess kneeling, an infant in swaddling clothes between them, and five daughters

¹ Add. Ch. 21536.

² *Pope Nich. Tax.* (Rec. Com.), 55.

³ Dugdale, *Mon.* iv, 508.

⁴ *L. and P. Hen. VIII*, iv (2), 1779.

⁵ *Ibid.* v, 200, 286.

⁶ *V.C.H. Surrey*, ii, 93.

⁷ *L. and P. Hen. VIII*, xviii (1), 346 (38).

⁸ Chan. Inq. p.m. 17 Hen. VI, no. 38.

⁹ Dugdale, *Mon.* iv, 508.

¹⁰ *Ibid.* 512.

¹¹ Baldwin Brown, *Arts in Early Eng-*

land, i, 297. This would presumably be in 1776 when the hall was rebuilt.

¹² The stucco is falling away in places.

¹³ Baker, *Hist. of Northants.* i, 24.

¹⁴ *Chs. Archd. N^oton*, 252.

below. There are also several 19th-century tablets to members of the Elwes family, one of them by Flaxman with female figure in bas-relief.¹ In the chancel floor is a brass plate with rhyming inscription to Justinian Bracegirdle, rector (d. 1625), 'Who four and fifty winters did afford this flocke the pasture of God's heavenly word'.²

There are three bells, the first by Alexander Rigby of Stamford 1684, the second undated from the Newcomb foundry (16th century) at Leicester, with an imperfect inscription, and the third, of 15th-century date, by John de Yorke of Leicester, 'in honore Beate Marie'. There is also a priest's bell dated 1664.³

The plate consists of a cup and paten of c. 1682, a flagon by John Bodington 1697, the gift of Lady Henrietta O'Brien in January 1698-9, a bread-holder of 1703 given by Lady O'Brien in 1804, and a modern chalice and paten.⁴

The registers before 1812 are as follows: (i) baptisms 1662-1811; (ii) marriages 1664-1762; (iii) burials 1662-1810; (iv) marriages 1754-1812; (v) burials 1810-12.⁵

The churchwardens' accounts begin in 1771.

In the churchyard is buried Mrs. Dora O'Connor, who died in 1933, aged 103. She was daughter to Cary Charles Elwes of Billing Hall. To the north-east of the churchyard is a Roman Catholic burial ground for members of the Elwes family since they adopted that faith in the time of Mr. Valentine Cary Elwes (c. 1868).

The church of Great Billing was *ADVOWSON* given to Leicester Abbey, soon after its foundation, by William Barry, lord of the manor, and confirmed by Henry II shortly afterwards.⁶ In 1250 Roger de Wanton unsuccessfully claimed the advowson in right of his wife Julia, a descendant of Simon Barry,⁷ and in 1269 the abbot gave the advowson to Roger and Julia in exchange for lands elsewhere.⁸ Subsequently Robert Barry evidently obtained the advowson, which he alienated to the Crown in 1281.⁹ Henry VI exchanged the advowson in 1440 for that of Eton, Bucks., with William Whaplade and others,¹⁰ but Edward IV re-exchanged them, thus recovering Billing advowson,¹¹ which remained vested in the Crown until the reign of Elizabeth. In 1291 the value of the church was £8¹² and it was returned in 1535 as worth £19.¹³ Elizabeth bestowed the advowson and rectory upon Sir Christopher Hatton, Lord Chancellor, and his heirs in 1579,¹⁴ on whose death in 1591 they passed in accordance with the terms of his will to his nephew, Sir William Newport, who assumed the name of Hatton.¹⁵ On the latter's death, without male heirs in 1597, the right of presentation

was inherited by Sir Christopher Hatton, a cousin of the Lord Chancellor. Sir Christopher died in 1619.¹⁶ His son Christopher, who was then a minor in ward to the Crown,¹⁷ was created Baron Hatton of Kirby in 1643 and was succeeded in 1670 by his son, another Christopher, raised to the peerage in 1683 as Viscount Hatton of Gretton,¹⁸ who sold the advowson in 1706 to the Master and Fellows of Brasenose College, Oxford, in whom it is vested at the present day.¹⁹

In 1625, when the advowson was temporarily in the Crown, Daniel Cawdry was presented to the church. He was a parson of strong presbyterian views and was one of the leading members of the Assembly of Divines appointed by Parliament in 1643 for the regulation of religion: he was averse to personal violence being used against the king, but refused to submit to the Act of Uniformity in 1662 and was therefore ejected, dying shortly afterwards at Wellingborough where he had retired. He was the author of numerous pamphlets, both against Anglicans and Independents.²⁰

Billing Hospital. By his will dated *CHARITIES* 25 February 1614 John Freeman gave a tenement for the accommodation of four aged widows and one aged widower and he also gave to the inmates 40s. a piece yearly out of certain lands in the parish of Holbeach. These payments were increased by Sir Edward Gorges and Katharine his wife to £6 apiece as recited in indentures of lease and release dated 6 and 7 October 1691. The original hospital was pulled down and a new building erected on land set out by the Inclosure Commissioners in 1778 in lieu of the original site. The property now consists of four cottages with gardens and stock producing about £35 yearly in dividends.

The Church Field. On the inclosure of the parish an allotment of 2½ acres was made to the churchwardens in lieu of land in the open fields anciently appropriated to the repairs of the church. The land is let for £4 yearly which sum is applied towards church expenses.

Brake Money. On the inclosure of the parish a piece of land awarded to the lord of the manor was charged with an annual payment of £4 in lieu of the right of the poor to cut bracken.

George Wortley Lovell, by codicil to his will proved in P.C.C. in 1848, gave £130 to the rector and churchwardens upon trust to apply the interest in the distribution of meat to the poor. The legacy was invested and the dividends amounting to about £3 10s. yearly are distributed in doles by the rector and two trustees appointed by the parish council in place of the churchwardens with the Brake Money.

The several sums of stock are with the Official Trustees of Charitable Funds.

¹ To Caroline, wife of R. C. Elwes, d. 1812.

² The full inscription is given in Bridges, *op. cit.* i, 407.

³ North, *Ch. Bells of Northants.* 192, where the inscriptions are given.

⁴ Markham, *Ch. Plate of Northants.* 32.

⁵ The entries between 14 March 1679 and May 1688 were collected in 1689 partly from loose papers written by Dr. Moody and the parish clerk and partly from information of the inhabitants: note in Register.

⁶ Dugdale, *Mon.* vi, 466, 468; Nichols, *Leics.* i (2), Appendix. 68.

⁷ Cur. Reg. R. 137, m. 2.

⁸ Feet. of F. Div. Co. 53 Hen. III, no. 34.

⁹ Ibid. Northants. 9 Edw. I, no. 67.

¹⁰ Cal. Pat. 1436-41, p. 454.

¹¹ Pat. 1 Edw. IV, pt. 3, m. 24.

¹² Pope Nich. Tax. (Rec. Com.), 40.

¹³ Valor Eccles. (Rec. Com.), iv, 325.

¹⁴ Pat. 21 Eliz., pt. 2, m. 37.

¹⁵ Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), cccxxii, 82; Excheq. (First Fruits) Plea R. 12, no. 108.

¹⁶ G.E.C. *Peerage* (2nd ed.), vi, 396.

¹⁷ Inst. Bks. (P.R.O.).

¹⁸ G.E.C. *Peerage*, vi, 397; Feet of F. Northants. Mich. 22 Chas. II; Recov. R. Mich. 22 Chas. II, 9. 246.

¹⁹ Bridges, *Northants.* i, 406. Inst. Bks. (P.R.O.).

²⁰ *Dict. Nat. Biog.* In 1662 John Bourne and Edmund May presented to Great Billing church, but this was probably due to the confusion caused by the ejection of Daniel Cawdry in that year.

A HISTORY OF NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

LITTLE BILLING

Belinge (xi cent.); Billingge (xii cent.).

The parish of Little Billing covers an area of 870 acres. It is long and narrow in shape and is crossed by the main road from Northampton to Wellingborough, which passes through the centre of the parish from west to east, descending from a height of 304 ft. to 207 ft. at the eastern boundary. Billing Lane, running at right angles to the Wellingborough road, connects the main road to Kettering with the Billing road and descends from a height of 255 ft. to 191 ft. at its junction with the Billing road in the south of the parish where the village lies. This consists of one or two farm-houses and a few cottages only, in addition to the church and rectory house; in Bridges's time 11 families composed the population, which in 1931 was 83. Since 1935 Little Billing has been absorbed into the civil parish of Billing.

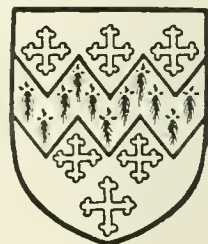
The manor-house, mentioned by Leland, stood immediately north of the church, and some remains of it are incorporated in a modern house on a portion of the site. In Bridges's time part of the house was still standing, 'the first story supported with broad arches and at the south end a turret with a staircase leading up to the leads'.¹ Pennant, about 1780, speaks of the 'poor remains' of the mansion of the Longuevilles at Little Billing,² and in 1789 the ruins were described as 'much reduced' in the course of sixty years.³ The turret and practically the whole of the east end of the building had then gone, but some portion of the western end was still standing, of two stories, with embattled parapet and large ground-floor bay window on the north side.⁴ These features have in their turn disappeared and such ancient work as still remains is very slight or of a fragmentary character. The older part, which includes a small pointed window on the south side near ground level, may be of 14th-century date, and at the east end in a modern wall is inserted a quatrefoil circle containing a shield inscribed 'pro aia',⁵ apparently of the same period. A four-centred doorway and a mullioned window with rounded lights are probably of the 16th century, but in its present form the house, known locally as the Castle, dates only from 1880.⁶

Behind the village the ground slopes down to the River Nene which forms the southern boundary; this portion of the parish lies low, falling to 171 ft., and is watered by numerous small streams, all branches of

the River Nene, which overflow their banks in rainy seasons and flood the surrounding land.

At the time of the Domesday Survey 1086, *MANOR* Gunfrid de Cioches held the manor of *LITTLE BILLING* of the king in chief,⁷ and the manor continued to be held of the honor of Chokes.

In the reign of King Edward the manor had been held freely by Swain, and no under-tenant is mentioned at the time of the Survey, but Walter fitz Winemar, whose father Winemar held a great deal of land in Northamptonshire in 1086, is later found holding the manor with his wife Osanna.⁸ As in Preston Deanery (q.v.), where he was under-tenant to the Countess Judith, he was succeeded by the Preston family.⁹ Gilbert de Preston in 1236 confirmed a lease of the manor for 6 years to Simon de Esteyland and Guy de Merloue.¹⁰ This Gilbert held Billing until 1273,¹¹ when on his death it passed to his widow Alice, as her dower, by agreement with Laurence, Gilbert's nephew and heir.¹² Alice was still holding the manor in 1284,¹³ but by 1301 it had come into the possession of Laurence, who then alienated Billing to John de Longueville and Joan his wife.¹⁴ This John de Longueville was a benefactor to the religious houses in Northampton, for in 1299 he bestowed rent and land in Little Billing upon St. John's Hospital,¹⁵ and in 1323 he is supposed to have founded the Northampton house of the Austin Friars, in the church of which several of his descendants, who were also benefactors to the friars, were afterwards buried.¹⁶ The Longuevilles retained Little Billing Manor for nearly 400 years; one of the family, Sir George, being murdered there in 1357,¹⁷ but they ceased to reside there after the marriage of John Longueville, a great-grandson of the former John, with Joan Hunt, daughter and heir of Margery Wolverton of Wolverton (Bucks.),¹⁸ which manor then became their chief seat, Billing being settled



LONGUEVILLE. *Gules a fesse dancetty ermine between six crosslets argent.*

on George, their eldest son,¹⁹ who was Sheriff of Northamptonshire in 1430²⁰ and succeeded his father c. 1439 in the lordship of Wolverton.²¹ George died in 1458²² and his grandson and heir, Richard, surviving

¹ *Hist. of Northants.* i, 409. Buck's view (1729), in which the house is mistakenly called a Cistercian Priory, is reproduced. It is taken from the north, and shows the top of the turret on the south side. The greater length was from east to west, and the broad arches were in the ruined eastern portion. In the yard was a farm-house 'made out of the ruins adjoining the ruinous part'.

² *Journey from Chester to London* (ed. 1782), 320.

³ That is since the time of Buck's drawing.

⁴ *Archaeologia*, x, 67; a paper by Richard Gough, with a drawing by a Mr. Schnebbelie taken in 1789. The view is from the north and comparison with Buck's drawing shows the extent of the change. Gough says that 'the turret and all the building west of it had gone', but Schnebbelie's drawing shows that 'east of it' was meant. A large projecting chimney

seems to have been an addition after 1729.

⁵ Probably one of a series of panels containing an inscription.

⁶ The old house was restored, or rebuilt, by Lord Overstone in this year. Fragments of ruins adjoining were used in building an outhouse.

⁷ *V.C.H. Northants.* i, 347.

⁸ *Ibid.* i, 290.

⁹ Baker, *Northants.* i, 28.

¹⁰ *Cal. Pat.* 1232-47, p. 147.

¹¹ *Testa de Nevill* (Rec. Com.), 26; *Red Bk. of Exch.* (Rolls Ser.), ii, 727; Chan. Inq. p.m. 2 Edw. I, no. 25.

¹² *Cal. Close*, 1272-9, p. 222; *Hund. R.* (Rec. Com.), ii, 13.

¹³ *Feud. Aids*, iv, 16.

¹⁴ Feet of F. Northants. 30 Edw. I, no. 415.

¹⁵ Inq. a. q. d. file xxix, no. 10.

¹⁶ *V.C.H. Northants.* ii, 147. This John, who settled the manor on his son George in 1310 (Add. Ch. 21539), was succeeded

by the latter, after 1316; who in 1330 bestowed a messuage and land in Northampton upon the Austin Priory (Inq. a. q. d. file ccvi, no. 7). In 1346 he obtained licence to enclose a road in Little Billing 18 perches by 18 ft., leading from Billing Bridge to Northampton, on condition of substituting a similar space (Inq. a. q. d. file cclxxix, no. 18).

¹⁷ *Cal. Pat.* 1354-8, p. 652.

¹⁸ Feet of F. Northants. 4 Edw. II, no. 11; De Banco R. Hil. 35 Edw. III, m. 90; Chan. Inq. p.m. 35 Edw. III (pt. 1), 120; *V.C.H. Bucks.* iv, 507.

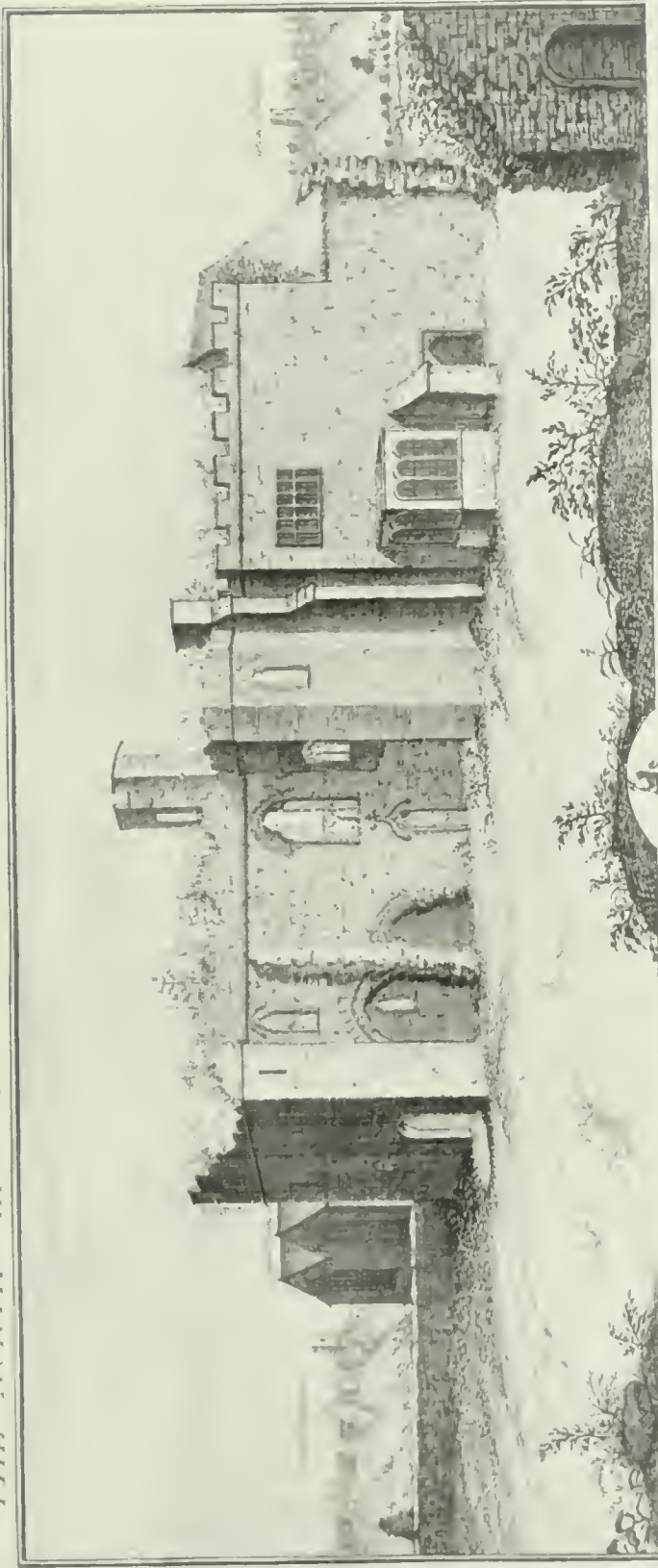
¹⁹ *Feud. Aids*, iv, 37.

²⁰ *V.C.H. Northants. Families*, 370. A great many of the Longuevilles were Burgesses of Northampton, and represented the county in Parliament during the fourteenth century (*ibid.* 374, 377).

²¹ Chan. Inq. p.m. 17 Hen. VI, no. 38.

²² *Ibid.* 36 Hen. VI, no. 36.

THE NORTH VIEW OF LITTLE BILLING PRIORY, NEAR NORTHAMPTON.



To William Thursty Esq
 of Prospec Lodge, &c.
 Wm. D. D.



THIS was a site near the priory, dedicated to St. Andrew, and it was
 W. C. Indows at Northampton built at the expense of the priory
 Schenck, but it was to the priory, and was a site which was
 in the priory, and it was a site which was a site which was
 a site which was a site which was a site which was a site which was



LITTLE BILLING CHURCH: THE FONT

him a few weeks only, the latter's son John, then only 33 weeks old, inherited the estate.¹ On the marriage of John in 1493 with his first wife Elizabeth, the daughter of Sir Ralph Hastings, a settlement of the manor was made to their use and their lawful issue. They had one child Anne who married Drew Cheyne and by him had a son John,² to whom the manor ought to have passed in 1541 on his grandfather's death,³ but the latter in 1527⁴ had made over Billing to his illegitimate sons Thomas, Arthur, Richard, and John in tail male. Thomas dying before his father in 1540,⁵ the manor was resettled on Arthur⁶ who entered into it on his father's death in 1541 and bought out John Cheyne's claim by giving up to him manors and lands to the yearly value of £20. John in 1542 renouncing all right in the manor of Little Billing.⁷ Arthur died in 1557 leaving a son Henry, then aged 10,⁸ against whom, when he came of age, Henry the son of John Cheyne brought an action, alleging that the terms of the contract had not been kept.⁹ Henry Longueville lived till 1618,¹⁰ his son Henry surviving him only three years, when the manor passed to the latter's son Edward¹¹ who was created a baronet in 1638 and died in 1661. His son and heir Thomas was killed by a fall from his horse in 1685¹² and his son Edward in 1688 sold Little Billing.¹³ The manor was acquired by William Thursby, from whom it passed, with Abington (q.v.), to John Harvey Thursby, and was bought of the Thursby family in 1837 by Mr. Loyd, whose grand-daughter was Lady Wantage.

There was a mill attached to the manor worth 2s. in 1086,¹⁴ described as a water-mill in 1273¹⁵ and last mentioned in 1361, there being no trace of a mill at the present day. In 1361 the manor comprised 73 acres of arable land, 60 acres of meadow, and £4 14s. annual rent. The serfs owed £7 rent of assize and the cottars 6s., while six free tenants owed works in harvest every three days. There were two dove-houses, two ponds, and buildings within the gates, the moiety of a grange, pleas and perquisites of court.¹⁶

Other land in Billing was held by the Count of Mortain in 1086, of which 2½ virgates were socland of the manor of Weston.¹⁷ This holding, which escheated to the Crown either in the reign of William Rufus or in 1106, was granted to the Avrenches family¹⁸ and was held of them by Walter fitz Winemar, lord of the manor, who bestowed 1 virgate of this fee, together with Little Billing Church and 1 virgate of the fee of Chokes, upon St. Andrew's Priory in Northampton.¹⁹ Sibyl de Preston daughter of Gilbert gave up her right in 5 virgates of land in Billing to the priory on the condition that her daughter Eustachia and the latter's husband Robert son of Ralph Raye should continue to hold 2 virgates of the priory.²⁰ These gifts were confirmed in the reign of Henry II by Michael de Preston and by the latter's son Walter and grandson Gilbert in the reign of Henry III.²¹ In the reign of Edward II the priory sued

Philip son of John of Boughton for unjustly disseising them of 1 messuage and 3 virgates of land in Little Billing,²² and in the reign of Richard II, George Longueville, lord of the manor, contended that of the 40d. due from the whole 'vill' of Billing for ward of the Castle of Northampton or that of Rockingham, 6d. ought to be paid by the prior. As a defence the prior successfully pleaded that the land had been given him in free alms, the jury also finding that by a charter of Henry II, confirmed by Edward I, the priory was acquitted from shire and hundred courts.²³ In 1291 the priory's possessions in Little Billing were valued at £6 15s., the meadows being worth £3 and their lands and dove-houses £3 15s.²⁴ By 1535 the value of the estate had fallen to 16s.²⁵ and, having been taken into the king's hand at the dissolution of the priory in 1538, it was granted out by Edward VI in 1553 to Thomas Sidney and Nicholas Haleswell,²⁶ but after this date no records of this holding can be found.

The church of *ALL SAINTS* consists *CHURCH* of chancel, 31 ft. by 12 ft. 8 in., with north aisle or chapel its full length, 14 ft. 6 in. wide, nave, 43 ft. 6 in. by 26 ft. 6 in., and south porch, 8 ft. square, all these measurements being internal. There is also a small modern bell-tower on the north side, near the junction of the nave and chapel.

The oldest parts of the church are of 14th-century date but the building has been so much altered in later times that it now retains very little architectural interest. The north chapel was rebuilt in 1849, and the nave and chancel extensively restored in 1854. Before this time, however, a north aisle had been merged into the nave by the removal of the arcade, the outer walls rebuilt in a 'meagre Perpendicular' style, and a wide roof erected supported by posts in the middle.²⁷ In the 1854 restoration the single span roof was reconstructed without its supporting posts and a wooden turret at the west end was done away with. The width of the original nave would be about 16 ft. The chancel and its aisle are under separate tiled roofs with twin east gables, and the tower has a pyramidal roof. The walls are plastered internally and with one exception all the windows are modern.

The exception is a low-side window in the south-west corner of the chancel, which is a tall pointed opening with trefoiled head and hood-mould, of early 14th-century date. Though now at some height above the ground it is more than 2 ft. lower than the two other windows in the same wall, which presumably occupy the position of, if they do not actually reproduce, the original two-light openings.²⁸ There is a priest's doorway between the windows.

The chancel arch is a lofty one of two chamfered orders and probably belongs to a 15th-century reconstruction: the chancel screen is modern. The floor of the chancel is level with that of the nave, but no ancient

¹ Chan. Inq. p.m. 37 Hen. VI, no. 28.

² Chan. Proc. Eliz. C.c. 24, no. 9.

³ Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), lxx, no. 7.

⁴ Memo. R. (L.T.R.), iil. 37 Hen. VIII, r. 36.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Feet of F. Div. Co. Trin. 33 Hen. VIII. The manor was leased in 1538 to George Fisher and subsequently to Nicholas and John Gainsford: Ct. of Requests, 14 (167). Ibid. 16 (86), Chan. Proc. Ser. ii, bdle. 128, no. 19.

⁷ Com. Pleas. Deeds Enr. East. 35 Hen. VIII, m. 7; Chan. Proc. Eliz. C.c.

24, no. 9.

⁸ Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), cxi, no. 6.

⁹ Chan. Proc. Eliz. C.c. 24, no. 9.

¹⁰ Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), cccclxxx,

131.

¹¹ Ibid. cccclxxvi, 93.

¹² G.E.C. *Baronetage*, ii, 437.

¹³ Feet of F. Northants. Trin. 1 Will. and M.

¹⁴ *P.C.H. Northants.* i, 347.

¹⁵ Chan. Inq. p.m. 2 Edw. I, no. 25.

¹⁶ Ibid. 35 Edw. III, pt. 1, no. 120.

¹⁷ *P.C.H. Northants.* i, 321.

¹⁸ Ibid. i, 288, 381, n. 10.

¹⁹ Cott. MS. Vesp. E. xvii, fol. 55.

²⁰ Ibid. fol. 57 d, 58.

²¹ Ibid. fol. 57.

²² Ibid. fol. 59.

²³ Ibid. fols. 59-60.

²⁴ *Pope Nich. Tax.* (Rec. Com.), 55.

²⁵ *Valor Eccles.* (Rec. Com.), iv, 313.

²⁶ Pat. 7 Edw. VI, pt. iv.

²⁷ *Chs. Archd. Northton.* 254.

²⁸ The height of the sill of the low-side window above the floor inside is 4 ft. 7 in. and above the ground outside 5 ft. 11 in. The opening is 4 ft. high: *Assoc. Arch. Soc. Reports*, xxix, 383.

A HISTORY OF NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

ritual arrangements survive. There is, however, a small ogee-headed aumbry in the east wall of the chapel at its south end, and at the north end a carved corbel. The chapel is open on the south side by two pointed arches, the westernmost of 14th-century date, the other later, which may indicate that originally the aisle covered the chancel for only about half its length. The arch between the chapel and the former north aisle of the nave is also of 14th-century date. In the nave, north of the chancel arch, facing west, is a recess with foliated head, probably the remains of the reredos of a nave altar.

The exceedingly interesting cylindrical font has already been described.¹ On account of the palaeological peculiarity of its inscription, as well as from its resemblance to a Saxon baluster shaft, the font is generally attributed to the pre-Conquest period, but is probably not earlier than the 11th century.²

In the north chapel is an 18th-century wooden communion table. The pulpit and other fittings are modern.

There are three modern bells, cast about 1850.³

The plate consists of a silver cup of 1682 with the maker's mark IN within a heart, inscribed 'The Parish of litle Biling in Northamptonshire', a paten without date letter but of about the same period with the maker's mark E B repeated. There are also two pewter alms dishes and a pewter flagon of 1714.⁴

The registers before 1812 are as follows: (i) baptisms and burials 1632-1740, marriages 1632-1720, 1735-41; (ii) baptisms and burials 1741-1812, marriages 1744-54; (iii) marriages 1754-1812. There is a book of churchwardens' accounts 1722-1886.

The rectory house, which stands close to the church, has a good 18th-century panelled entrance hall and oak staircase.

There is no mention of Little Billing Church in the

Domesday Survey, but soon after the foundation of St. Andrew's Priory, Northampton, between 1093 and 1100, Walter fitz Winemar and Osanna *ADVOVSON* his wife presented it to the prior and convent.⁵ This gift was confirmed

by Hugh of Wells, Bishop of Lincoln, 20s. being assigned to the priory as an annual pension.⁶ This pension continued to be paid to the priory until the Dissolution.⁷ The priory was a cell to the French priory of St. Mary de la Charité and therefore during the French wars of Edward III the presentation to the church of Little Billing was often exercised by the Crown.⁸ In 1535 the value of the benefice was £11 13s. 4d.⁹ and the church was annexed by the Crown on the dissolution of St. Andrew's in 1538. It was apparently granted to Richard Wudcocke, who sold it in 1548 to Sir Thomas Brudenell, who died seised of it in 1549,¹⁰ when it was said to be held of Arthur Longueville, but instead of passing to his heir with his other possessions it escheated to the king, by whom it was granted in the next year to Sir Ralph Sadler and Laurence Wennington.¹¹ The advowson is found in 1630 in the hands of Richard Stockwell,¹² but there is no record of its history during the interval. Anne Bracegirdle in 1648 presented by reason of the minority of her son Justinian,¹³ who, with his wife Martha, sold the advowson to Richard Woodford in 1669.¹⁴ It remained in the Woodford family until 1741¹⁵ when John and Mary Woodford conveyed it to Ambrose Isted of Ecton,¹⁶ by whom it was probably afterwards sold to Sir Thomas Drury, bart., passing on the latter's death in 1759 to his two daughters and co-heirs, in undivided moieties.¹⁷ The younger daughter, Jocosa Catherine, purchased her late sister's moiety in 1770 and married Sir Brownlow Cust, bart., afterwards Lord Brownlow, in whose descendant, the present Earl Brownlow, the advowson is now vested.¹⁸

BOUGHTON

Buchenho, Buchetone, Buchedone, Bochetone (xi cent.); Boketon, Buketone, Buckton (xii-xv cent.).

Boughton is a parish covering an area of 2,060 acres. The soil is marl and clay with a subsoil of stone, while the chief crops are wheat, barley, and beans. The parish, which is heart-shaped, is crossed from north to south by the road running from Northampton to Market Harborough, which skirts Boughton Park, the property of Mr. Frank Panther. Baker, writing about 1820, describes Boughton House¹⁹ as 'nearly levelled with the ground',²⁰ but gives a view made from a sketch of about thirty years before,²¹ which shows a gabled building

enclosing three sides of a quadrangle.²² The park and adjacent grounds were well wooded and interspersed with temples, triumphal arches, and artificial ruins.²³ No remains of the old house are left. The present house, called Boughton Park, to distinguish it from the Duke of Buccleuch's seat near Kettering, was built about 1844 by Lt.-Gen. R. W. H. Howard-Vyse. The village of Boughton lies to the east of the park and contains a house, formerly the residence of Captain Whyte-Melville, who wrote many of his novels here. In the village are a number of 17th-century thatched houses, on one of which, south-west of the church, is

¹ *V.C.H. Northants.* ii, 187.

² See also Paley, *Bapt. Fonts*, where it is called early Norman.

³ North, *Ch. Bells of Northants.* 192. The bells are very difficult of access. In 1552 there were two bells and a sanctus bell.

⁴ Markham, *Ch. Plate of Northants.* 33.

⁵ Cott. MS. Vesp. E. xvii, fol. 55.

⁶ *Ibid.* fol. 14 d.; A. Gibbons, *Liber Antiquus*, 40.

⁷ *Pope Nich. Tax.* (Rec. Com.), 40; Mins. Accts. bble. 1,108, no. 21; *Valor Eccles.* (Rec. Com.), iv, 314.

⁸ *Cal. Pat.* 1340-3, p. 577; *ibid.* 1348-50, pp. 296, 326; *ibid.* 1381-5, pp. 478, 480. In 1417 the priory leased the advowson

to William Gadesby, clerk, and to Richard Wilby for the term of the former's life: *Campb. Ch.* x, 2.

⁹ *Valor Eccles.* (Rec. Com.), iv, 326.

¹⁰ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), lxxxix, 106.

¹¹ *Pat. R.* 4 Edw. VI, pt. iv, m. 27. Wudcocke's title was probably based on a usurpation by Longueville.

¹² *Inst. Bks.* (P.R.O.).

¹³ *Ibid.*

¹⁴ Feet of F. Northants. Mich. 21 Chas. II.

¹⁵ Bridges, *Northants.* i, 409. In 1702, however, George Dixon exercised the right: *Inst. Bks.* (P.R.O.).

¹⁶ Feet of F. Northants. Mich. 15 Geo. II.

¹⁷ Baker, *Northants.* i, 28, 57; G.E.C.

Baronetage, v, 86.

¹⁸ *Ibid.*; *Inst. Bks.* (P.R.O.).

¹⁹ It is called the 'Manor House' in Bridges' *History* (i, 410) and described as 'old but not large'. Part had been pulled down by Sir John Briscoe.

²⁰ Baker, *Hist. of Northants.* i, 36.

²¹ *Ibid.* 'When I had scarcely entered into my teens.'

²² *Ibid.* i, 35. Baker says the house was occupied by the Earl of Ross for a short time after the death of the Earl of Strafford and subsequently became the rendezvous of the Pytchley Hunt while under the management of John Ward, who was the last occupier.

²³ *Ibid.* i, 36.

a tablet inscribed 'Ano. Dom. 1639, T.H., A.H.' A monument was erected in Boughton parish in 1764 in memory of William Cavendish, 4th Duke of Devonshire, in the form of a masonry obelisk. The inscription which it originally bore has been removed.¹ The old ruined church of St. John the Baptist stands about a mile east of the village on the green where the fair was held since at least the middle of the 14th century. This famous green is most picturesque in appearance, with an undulating surface caused partly by extensive quarrying, the remains of several old pits being found in the neighbourhood. The sandy ground is riddled with rabbit holes. The keeper of Moulton Park used to claim free warren in Boughton fields, a right which was stoutly resisted by the inhabitants. Thos. Aylmer, the bailiff of Boughton in 1531, used to keep greyhounds and ferrets in his house and 'wold never rydde between Northampton and Buckton but that he wold have his cross-bowe hangyng at his saddle bowe with hym, to the intent to kyll conyes by the waye'. Even the chantry priest, Sir John Chene, in the reign of Richard III was accused at his own chantry door of hunting in the warren; and the rabbits invaded the churchyard itself, making the place so dangerous that the inhabitants were afraid to go to mass for fear of breaking their necks. It was said that the bones dug up by the conies would fill a scuttle and 'that a man can go skantly in a corner of yt but he shall fynde it full of dead mennes bones, a thing most pytyous to be seen'. One of the parishioners stated that a 'great number of conyes have so undermined the church yarde of Bouckton that it wold abhorre any Crystiane manys harte in the world to see it'.²

The parish is well watered with springs, one of which, known as St. John the Baptist's Spring, rises in the old churchyard on the green. A branch of the River Nene flows on the north through Boughton Park, while a larger branch of the river forms the western boundary and is crossed several times in its course through the parish by the L.M.S. railway. A road connecting the village with Church and Chapel Brampton descends from 343 ft. to 221 ft., where it crosses the line at Boughton level crossing, the lowest lying ground in the parish being situated here. The mill stands almost a quarter of a mile farther upstream. The highest ground is found to the north and north-east of the parish where an altitude of 418 ft. is reached. There is a Methodist chapel in the village.

The parish has been inclosed under an act passed in 1756.³

William the Conqueror bestowed most of *MANOR* the land in *BOUGHTON* upon his niece, the Countess Judith, and the overlordship remained vested in the holders of the honor of Hunting-

don of which the descent is traced under Yardley Hastings (q.v.).

One of the under-tenants of the countess in 1086 was the Norman abbey of St. Wandrille who held 3 hides less half a virgate, bestowed upon them by the countess;⁴ by the 12th century this estate had increased to 3 hides and 3 small virgates,⁵ probably by the addition of 3 virgates held of the countess at the Domesday Survey by 4 socmen.⁶ It was worth 110s. in 1207, and was appropriated by John for the time being with the lands of other Norman holders,⁷ but was regained by the abbey, whose abbot William de Nutricilla, in the reign of Edward I, conveyed it to John de Boughton,⁸ who already owned land in Boughton by inheritance.⁹ From John it passed to his son, another John;¹⁰ and to the latter's son Thomas,¹¹ against whom and his mother Juliana, William, Abbot of St. Wandrille, brought an action in 1330 claiming that as the estate had belonged to the abbey by virtue of the Prebend of Uphaven, in the diocese of Salisbury, and that as the consent of the dean and chapter had not been obtained, the alienation of the manor by William de Nutricilla was not valid. The abbot, however, failed to prosecute and judgement was given for Thomas,¹² who in the same year successfully claimed view of frankpledge in his manor of Boughton, on prescription; he was sheriff¹³ for Northants. in 1331, 1334, and 1343. In 1337 the abbey of St. Wandrille was absolved by the Pope from the penalty it had incurred by selling the Boughton estate without licence from the bishop, and the tenure of the Boughton family was thus rendered more secure.¹⁴ Three years afterwards, however, Sir Thomas de Boughton and Joan his wife sold the reversion of the manor to Henry Green of Isham, junior,¹⁵ in whose family it remained for many years.¹⁶ Henry Green was knighted in 1354 and in 1361 was appointed chief justice of the King's Bench, from which he was removed in 1365;¹⁷ he died in 1369 and was succeeded in his Boughton estates by Thomas, his son by his first wife; Drayton, which he had acquired from Sir John Drayton, brother of his second wife Catherine, being settled on Henry his son by her.¹⁸ Sir Thomas, who died in 1391,¹⁹ was succeeded by his son another Sir Thomas, Sheriff of Northants. in 1417, in which year he died.²⁰ His widow Mary died in 1433,²¹ when their son, another Sir Thomas, came into possession of the whole manor.²² The manor passed from him to his son, grandson, and great-grandson, all of whom were called Thomas,²³ but the sixth and last Thomas died in 1506, without male heirs, when his property



GREEN. Azure three bucks or.

¹ *Assoc. Arch. Soc. Reports*, xxiii, 163. The duke, when a young man, read with one of the incumbents of Boughton and for this reason the monument was erected. The occupier of the farm on which it stands had so much trouble from persons trespassing to read the inscription that he caused it to be erased.

² From deeds in Kingsthorpe church-chest cited by Mr. Glover in *Kingsthorpeiana*.

³ Loc. and Priv. Acts, 29 Geo. II, cap. 9.

⁴ *V.C.H. Northants.* i, 355.

⁵ *Ibid.* i, 381.

⁶ *Ibid.* i, 351.

⁷ *Rot. de Oblatis et Fin.* (Rec. Com.),

400.

⁸ Assize R. 3 Edw. III, m. 48 d.

⁹ Feet of F. Northants. 12 Edw. I, no. 112.

¹⁰ De Banco R. 363, m. 53.

¹¹ *Feud. Aids*, iv, 23.

¹² Assize R. 3 Edw. III, m. 48 d.

¹³ *Plac. de Quo War.* (Rec. Com.), 534.

¹⁴ *Cal. of Papal Letters*, ii, 536. The estate is here referred to as 110s. pension in the church of Boughton but as there is no other record of the Abbey possessing a pension in the church and as the yearly value of the land sold to the de Boughtons was 110s., it is safe to conclude that the two are identical.

¹⁵ Feet of F. Northants. 13 Edw. III,

no. 195.

¹⁶ Halstead (*Succinct Genealogies*, 152) wrongly surmised that Henry Green was the son of Sir Thomas de Boughton and changed his name to Green of Boughton on account of his attachment to the green belonging to the village.

¹⁷ *Dict. Nat. Biog.*

¹⁸ Chan. Inq. p.m. 43 Edw. III, pt. 1, no. 48.

¹⁹ *Ibid.* 15 Rich. II, pt. 1, no. 24.

²⁰ *Ibid.* 5 Hen. V, no. 39.

²¹ *Ibid.* 12 Hen. VI, no. 20.

²² Fine R. Northants. 12 Hen. VI, m. 42.

²³ Chan. Inq. p.m. 2 Edw. IV, no. 4; Halstead, *Succinct Genealogies*, 169.

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passed to his two daughters Anne and Maud.¹ During their minority the estate was claimed by the Bishop of Winchester and others,² but this was probably only a question of guardianship, as in 1512 a division of the property was made between Nicholas Vaux and Anne his wife and Thomas Parr and Maud his wife³ by which Anne appears to have acquired Boughton Manor. She predeceased her husband, who died in 1523,⁴ shortly after his elevation to the peerage as Lord Vaux of Harrowden,⁵ when their son Thomas inherited the manor.⁶ During his life it appears to have been leased out to Richard Humphrey, after whose death it was the cause of a dispute between his stepson Augustus Crispe and his nephew Thomas Stafford,⁷ but the manor shortly returned to the Vaux family, passing to Thomas's son William, and to the latter's grandson Edward,⁸ who married Elizabeth widow of William Knollys Earl of Banbury.⁹ Edward Vaux died in 1661 without legitimate issue, having settled the manor on his stepson Nicholas Vaux or Knollys, sometimes called Earl of Banbury.¹⁰ By his first wife, Isabel, Nicholas had one daughter Anne who married Sir John Briscoe and by his second wife, Anne, on whom he settled Boughton on his marriage with her in 1655,¹¹ a son Charles who succeeded his father in 1674.¹² Charles apparently sold Boughton to Sir John Briscoe, the husband of his half-sister Anne, who mortgaged it to Lord Ashburnham, and the latter in 1717 sold it with Pitsford to Thomas Wentworth, Earl of Strafford.¹³ Lord Strafford died in 1739 and his son William died without issue in 1791, when this property was inherited by his sisters and co-heirs or their descendants, Anne wife of the Right Honourable William Conolly, Lucy wife of Sir George Howard, and Henrietta wife of Henry Vernon, as tenants in common,¹⁴ but as they were anxious to hold their shares in severalty they obtained an Act of Parliament in 1795 by which Boughton and Pitsford were assigned to Richard William Howard-Vyse, a minor, son of Major-General Howard-Vyse and Anne daughter and heir of Lucy Wentworth and Sir George Howard.¹⁵ The manor has remained in the Howard-Vyse family,¹⁶ the present owner being Major-Gen. Sir Richard Granville Howard-Vyse.

The Boughton family, who obtained the Manor of Boughton in the reign of Edward I, were already holders of land there, and their estate may have

originated in the virgate held in 1086 of Countess Judith by Robert.¹⁷ The first of this family of whom any record remains was William, who was succeeded by a son Richard, whose son Alexander was a benefactor both to St. Andrew's Priory, Northampton, and to the Hospital of the Holy Trinity, Kingsthorpe.¹⁸ He died before 1211, leaving a widow Margaret¹⁹ and two sons, William who died without issue and Walter²⁰ who died before 1284.²¹ Walter was succeeded by his son John,²² who purchased Boughton manor from St. Wandrille Abbey, when their holding became absorbed in the manor; it is doubtful if it had acquired the legal status of a manor, although Walter is sometimes styled lord of Boughton.

Boughton Green was long associated with a fair, held annually, at least since it was granted to Henry Green in 1350, on the vigil, day, and morrow of St. John the Baptist;²³ it used to be famed for brooms and wooden-ware, and the last day was given up to wrestling and other forms of sport, but during the last years of its existence it consisted merely of a large horse- and cattle-fair and lost its social character. It was abolished during the War (1914-18); the horses formerly sold at Boughton are now sent to the cattle-market at Northampton; and the green has since been enclosed. It was always attached to the manor, and when sold with it in 1717 was estimated at a yearly value of £50.²⁴

In 1086 Gerard held of the Countess Judith half a virgate of land in Boughton²⁵ which may have passed to the Prestons, lords of Little Billing Manor, for in 1233 Gilbert de Preston was concerned in a dispute over 2 virgates of land in Boughton.²⁶ This holding followed a descent similar to that of Little Billing Manor (q.v.),²⁷ but was retained by Laurence de Preston when he alienated Billing, passing from him to his son Laurence whose widow Agnes detained it as dower in 1349 and afterwards to their son Thomas.²⁸

As tenants under the Prestons were the Boughton family, who held 1 virgate of land rendering 17s. 10d. yearly and 2 virgates by foreign service.²⁹ In the division of property in 1274 between Laurence de Preston and Alice, the widow of Gilbert, the land in Boughton fell to Alice,³⁰ but after this date there is no further mention of the under-tenancy of the Boughtons.

Other lands held of the honor of Huntingdon were those in the possession of the Daubeny family; William Daubeny died seised of land in Boughton c. 1264,³¹ and in 1282 this holding was said to amount to 32 virgates.³² It may have been afterwards acquired by the lords of the chief manor for there is no further trace of it.

Robert de Buci held 3 virgates of land less 1 bovaté of the king in chief in 1086,³³ and this estate may have



HOWARD-VYSE. *Argent a hart's head cabossed sable with a cross sable between the attires, for Vyse, quartered with Howard.*

¹ Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), cx, 74.

² De Banco R. 982, m. 706.

³ Feet of F. Northants. Hil. 3 Hen. VIII.

⁴ Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), xli, 60.

⁵ G.E.C. *Peerage* (1st ed.), viii, 18.

⁶ Recov. R. Trin. 22 Hen. VIII, m. 419; Chan. Proc. (Ser. 2), bdle. 2, no. 63.

⁷ Feet of F. Northants. Mich. 1 & 2 Eliz.; *ibid.* East. 4 Eliz.; Chan. Proc. Eliz. S. s. 8, no. 51; Recov. R. Mich. 1566, m. 460.

⁸ Feet of F. Div. Co. Trin. 27 Eliz.; *ibid.* Trin. 31 Eliz. pt. 1; *ibid.* East. 32 Eliz.; Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), ccxlv, 121; Pat. 11 Jas. I, pt. 6; *ibid.* 14 Jas. I, pt. 2; Recov. Trin. 22 Jas. I, m. 36; Feet of F. Northants. East. 4 Chas. I; Recov. Trin. 4 Chas. I, m. 12; *ibid.* Trin. 11 Chas. I,

m. 63.

⁹ Feet of F. Div. Co. Mich. 22 Chas. I; Recov. R. Mich. 22 Chas. I.

¹⁰ G.E.C. *Peerage* (1st ed.), viii, 18. Feet of F. Northants. Hil. 1651.

¹¹ Feet of F. Northants. Mich. 1655.

¹² G.E.C. *Peerage* (2nd ed.), i, 404; Feet of F. Northants. Trin. 35 Chas. II; Recov. Trin. 35 Chas. II, m. 66.

¹³ Add. Chart. 26395.

¹⁴ G.E.C. *Peerage*, vii, 264 seq.

¹⁵ Priv. Act. 35 Geo. III, cap. 90.

¹⁶ Com. Pleas. Recov. Mich. 48, Geo. III, m. 72.

¹⁷ *V.C.H. Northants.* i, 354.

¹⁸ Reg. MS. 11 B ix, fol. 53 d.; Anct. D. (P.R.O.), C. 1668.

¹⁹ Feet of F. Northants. 12 John, nos.

226, 227, 228.

²⁰ De Banco R. 106, m. 17 d.

²¹ *Ibid.*; Feet of F. Northants. 12 Edw. I, no. 112.

²² De Banco R. 363, m. 53.

²³ Chart. R. 25 Edw. III, m. 13, no. 36.

²⁴ Add. Chart. 26395.

²⁵ *V.C.H. Northants.* i, 355.

²⁶ *Cal. Close*, 1231-4, p. 292.

²⁷ Feet of F. Northants. 24 Hen. III, no. 418; *Cal. Close*, 1272-9, p. 222.

²⁸ De Banco R. 363, m. 53; *Cal. Close*, 1346-9, p. 582.

²⁹ Chan. Inq. p.m. 2 Edw. I, no. 25.

³⁰ *Cal. Close*, 1272-9, p. 222.

³¹ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* (Rec. Com.), i, 27.

³² *Feud. Aids*, iv, 15.

³³ *V.C.H. Northants.* i, 335.

passed to the Bassets of Weldon, who owned land there in 1240.¹ The under-tenant at the Survey was Robert, and in 1242 Simon le Sauvage² and 'his partners' held a quarter fee in Spratton, Boughton, and Creaton under the Bassets.³ In 1284 Ralph Danvers held 7 virgates of Robert de Tateshall who held them of Ralph Basset,⁴ but after this date there is no record of the Basset holding in Boughton.

Another holder in Boughton in 1086 was Godwin the priest, who held 1½ virgates there of the king in chief;⁵ there is no further record of this estate.

A *MILL* in Boughton which Alexander de Boughton held of the fee of William de Dive was granted by him to the Hospital of the Holy Trinity at Kingsthorpe at the beginning of the 13th century,⁶ and the gift was soon afterwards augmented by the addition of land and the mill-pond⁷ and confirmed in 1211 by Margaret, Alexander's widow.⁸ In 1398 it was leased by the hospital, under the name of a fulling-mill, 'delapidated and ruinous', to Robert Douceamoure, parson of Scaldwell, and William Mackus of Kissingbury.⁹ It was apparently reconverted to a corn-mill, as at the view of frankpledge held in 1509 it was stated that John Hopkins, the miller, took excessive toll.¹⁰ In 1535 the yearly value of the mill was £4 15s. 8d., of which 2s. 8d. was paid to Thomas Vaux Lord Harrowden as rent.¹¹ It was granted out by Philip and Mary in 1558 with all the possessions of the dissolved hospital to the Master of the Hospital of the Savoy,¹² by whom it was afterward leased with other tenements to the Vaux family, lords of the manor, for a lease of 3 lives.¹³ The interest in the lease was conveyed by John Lord Ashburnham to Thomas Wentworth Earl of Strafford with the manor in 1717,¹⁴ but as by that date the Savoy Hospital had already been dissolved for a few years,¹⁵ it is probable that Lord Strafford acquired full possession, as the mill has remained attached to the manor. When it changed hands in 1717 it was described as a paper-mill in the tenure of Mr. Allen, who paid for it, the Holms, and the arable ground belonging, an annual rent of £20, but shortly before 1820 it was converted into a corn-mill.¹⁶ It is situated on the branch of the Nene which divides Boughton from Brampton and which is crossed about a quarter of a mile lower down by a bridge of some antiquity, known as Brampton Bridge or the Long-bridge. At a manor court held in 1509 all the tenants were ordered to repair the bridge called 'le Long Brigge';¹⁷ at the present day the burden of keeping the bridge in a good condition falls upon the two parishes alike.

The Hospital of the Holy Trinity and St. David owned a good deal of land in Boughton chiefly by gift from the de Boughton family; Alexander de Boughton

gave them, among other gifts, land adjoining a meadow called Thadchesholdon, pasture for 12 score sheep and a messuage held by Ailric the miller.¹⁸ William his son bestowed upon them rents and a capital messuage.¹⁹ Other members of this family who were also benefactors were Simon son of Peter, Walter son of Ralph, Simon son of Oger, Reynold son of Niel, and William and Philip sons of Walter.²⁰ Richard de Bollesore, the master, claimed common pasture in Boughton in 1367,²¹ and in 1394 granted lands in Boughton, part of which were called Bekemanwell, to Thomas Bollesore and Alice his wife.²² The possessions of the Hospital in Boughton were granted to the Savoy Hospital in 1558²³ and were held by it until its own dissolution in 1702.²⁴

The de Boughton family were also benefactors to St. Andrew's Priory. Alexander gave them a messuage²⁵ and Simon son of Oger, a member of the family, bestowed a virgate and house upon them,²⁶ a gift which was confirmed by his son Philip.²⁷ Their possessions in Boughton included 1 virgate, 2 houses, half an acre of land in Stonedalesike and half an acre above Bernway pits,²⁸ and in 1290 these were valued at 15s.²⁹ John a descendant of Philip confirmed these lands,³⁰ and in 1319 Thomas son of Thomas of Boughton, his successor, held them on lease under the priory yearly.³¹ They were worth 119s. 6d. in 1443³² after which date there is no trace of them.

The ruins of the old church of *ST. CHURCHES JOHN* stand to the north-east of Boughton Green on a site which falls from west to east. The building consisted of chancel, north chapel, nave, and west tower with spire and was of 14th-century date,³³ but the remains have long been neglected and are undergoing a gradual process of disintegration by the agency of weather and the unchecked growth of ivy. The site is thickly overgrown and at the west end is a confused mass of rubble, broken grave-stones, brambles, and nettles. Where the walls stand to any height their architectural features are generally hidden by ivy. Bridges, early in the 18th century, described the building as then 'in ruins, without a roof, the walls in several parts levelled with the ground',³⁴ but the tower and spire stood till about 1785. A drawing of the church from the south-east made in 1761 and engraved for Grose's 'Antiquities',³⁵ shows a tower of three stages with diagonal angle buttresses, pointed bell-chamber windows, each of two lights, and a spire rising from behind battlemented parapets. The walls of the nave were then standing to a considerable height and the east wall of the chapel retained its gable, but in other respects the state of the ruin seems to have been almost as complete as at the present time. There were three pointed two-light windows in the south wall.

¹ Feet of F. Northants. 24 Hen. III, no. 79; Baker, *Northants.* i, 35.

² For the association of the families of Buci and Sauvage see *F.C.H. Sussex*, i, 379.

³ *Bk. of Fees*, 934.

⁴ *Feud. Aids*, iv, 15. Land of the fee of Hugh de Hanvers was given to Holy Trinity Hospital by Alexander de Boughton c. 1200: Anct. D. (P.R.O.), C. 1873. Hugh seems also to have had some claim to the advowson (q.v.).

⁵ *F.C.H. Northants.* i, 321.

⁶ Anct. D. (P.R.O.), C. 2059.

⁷ *Ibid.* C. 2774.

⁸ Feet of F. Northants. 12 John, no. 229.

⁹ Anct. D. (P.R.O.), C. 134.

¹⁰ Ct. R. (P.R.O.), portf. 195, no. 69.

¹¹ *Valor Eccles.* (Rec. Com.), iv, 322.

¹² Pat. 4 & 5 Ph. and M. pt. xv, m. 38.

¹³ Excheq. Spec. Com. no. 4332.

¹⁴ Add. Chart. 26395.

¹⁵ Dugdale, *Mon.* vi, 726.

¹⁶ Baker, *Northants.* i, 31.

¹⁷ Ct. R. (P.R.O.), portf. 195, no. 69.

¹⁸ Anct. D. (P.R.O.), C. 1396; *ibid.* C. 1671; *ibid.* C. 1833.

¹⁹ *Ibid.* C. 2015; *ibid.* C. 2157.

²⁰ For these and a large number of other small grants see *Cat. of Anct. D.* vols. ii and vi.

²¹ *Abbrev. Rot. Orig.* (Rec. Com.), ii, 293.

²² Anct. D. (P.R.O.), C. 741; *ibid.* C. 1073.

²³ Pat. 4 & 5 Ph. and M. pt. xv, m. 33.

²⁴ Dugdale, *Mon.* vi, 726.

²⁵ Cott. MS. Vesp. E. xvii, fol. 41 d.

²⁶ *Ibid.* fols. 40 and 40 d., 59 d.

²⁷ *Ibid.* fol. 41.

²⁸ *Ibid.* fol. 43.

²⁹ *Pope Nich. Tax.* (Rec. Com.), 55.

³⁰ Cott. MS. Vesp. E. xvii, fol. 43 d.

³¹ *Ibid.* fols. 42, 42 d.

³² Mins. Accts. bdle. 1108, no. 21.

³³ In will of Sir Henry Greene, 1369, 'Ad fabricam campanilis ecclesie de Buckton, xlii': *Arch. Jour.* lxx, 280.

³⁴ *Hist. of Northants.* i, 411. An 'altar monument' with inscription to Arthur Lennard, rector (d. 1670), then stood on the north side of the chancel.

³⁵ Edition 1797, iv, 27. The engraving is dated 1784.

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The nave and chancel appear to have been continuous and the chancel had two large three-light east windows with a buttress between, over which was a single vesica-shaped opening. The walls of the chancel still stand almost their full height and both the window openings remain, but the arch of the northern window and all the mullions and tracery are gone: between the windows internally is a canopied niche. The building is 28 ft. wide inside at the east end¹ and has a moulded plinth and diagonal angle buttresses. The piscina remains in the usual position in the south wall of the chancel, and farther west is a large low-side window,² now blocked, with cinquefoiled square head, hood-mould, and wide segmental rear arch. The south chancel wall stands a considerable height for a length of about 33 ft. and for a further distance of 15 ft. westward is about three or four courses high. All the walling is of rubble.

The chapel opened from the north side of the chancel by an arch about 10 ft. from the east end, and had east and west windows. It measures internally 23 ft. by 16 ft. and has a diagonal north-east angle buttress, but though much of its walling still stands it is completely hidden by ivy. Its east window has a flat wooden lintel.

The tower and west end of the building are level with the ground. The churchyard is still used for burials and is surrounded by a modern fence wall and railing, with gateway on the west. Immediately outside the eastern wall of the chancel is a spring.

The chapel of *ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST*, now the parish church, stands in the village on the north side of the main street, and consists of a rectangular body, 68 ft. 6 in. by 27 ft. 6 in., small vestry, and west tower, 8 ft. 10 in. square, these measurements being internal. The tower dates from c. 1400, but is the only part of the original building that remains, the body having been rebuilt and enlarged³ in 1806, and again in 1846 when the vestry was added. An extensive restoration in 1894 included the re-roofing and re-flooring of the church, the removal of a west gallery and the opening out of the tower arch. The early-19th-century enlargement consisted of a widening on the north side, but the line of the old nave roof remains over the tower arch. The south wall and tower face directly on to the street. A school-house was built at right angles to the tower on the north side in 1841.⁴

The body of the church is faced with coursed ironstone, and has plain parapets and low-pitched zinc-covered roof. All the windows are square-headed, that at the east end and one on the north side being of three uncusped lights, the others of two lights. There is also a two-light window high at the west end of the south wall over the doorway, which formerly served the

gallery. The four-centred head of the doorway is old.⁵ Over the east window is the date 1846, and a panel inscribed 'E.M., 1.Y., 1702' is inserted over the three-light window in the north wall.

The tower is of rubble, of four stages, with diagonal angle buttresses and battlemented parapets. The pointed west doorway has mouldings divided by a casement, and the restored west window and the windows of the bell-chamber are of two cinquefoiled lights with quatrefoil in the head. In the third stage facing west is a panel inscribed 'This was repaired in the year of our Lord 1653'. There is a vice in the south-west angle. The two-centred segmental tower arch is of two chamfered orders, with hood-mould, the outer order continued down the jambs.

The font, pulpit,⁶ and all the fittings are modern.

On the north wall is a tablet to Mary, wife of Col. E. Mandeville Mortimore and eldest daughter of Sir John Briscoe, who died 10 March 1706,⁷ and in the choir are brass plates in memory of (1) Lilly Anne, wife of the Rev. G. S. Howard-Vyse (d. 1869) and Lieut. Harry Granville Lindsay Howard-Vyse, killed in action in Egypt, 1882, and (2) Major Granville William Richard Howard-Vyse, who died in Kashmir, 1892.

Three bells then in the tower were recast in 1907 by James Barwell, of Birmingham, who added two new ones, making the present ring of five.⁸

The plate consists of a silver cup, paten, and flagon, Birmingham make, of 1854, a plated bread-holder, and two brass alms dishes.⁹

The registers before 1812 are as follows: (i) baptisms 1549-1767, marriages 1559-1754, burials 1560-1767; (ii) baptisms and burials 1767-1812; (iii) marriages 1754-1812.¹⁰

The church of Boughton is not *ADVOWSON* mentioned until 1201, when the advowson was in dispute between Alexander de Boughton, Simon de Boughton, Simon son of Oger and Hugh de Anvers.¹¹ In 1202 Alexander de Boughton recovered the advowson against Simon de Houghton on the ground that his grandfather William had presented the last person to the church.¹² The right of presentation belonged to the de Boughton family and descended with the chief manor, Major-Gen. Howard-Vyse being patron at the present day. The tenure of the de Boughton family and of Sir Henry Green later, however, was contested by the Prestons, who claimed the advowson as appurtenant to their fee in Boughton. In 1273 it was included among the possessions of Gilbert Preston¹³ and it was recovered in 1276 by Alice his widow against Laurence, his nephew and heir,¹⁴ who in 1294 was sued by John de Boughton, then lord of the manor, for wrongfully exercising that right.¹⁵ Notwithstanding this, Laurence settled the presentation on

¹ Bridges gave the length of the church and chancel as 69 ft. 6 in., the breadth of the body 27 ft. 8 in., and the tower 12 ft. 6 in. by 9 ft.

² *Assoc. Arch. Soc. Reports*, xxxix, 388, where it is figured. The opening is 6 ft. 4 in. high by 3 ft. wide: height of sill above ground outside about 2 ft. 6 in. The window is about 26 ft. from the east end.

³ In Bridges' time the length of the nave and chancel was 42 ft. 4 in. and the width 15 ft.: *Hist. of Northants.* i, 412.

⁴ It bears a dated tablet with the initials of the Rev. Richard H. Howard-Vyse, rector.

⁵ The date 1599 was over the doorway

in Bridges' time, from which he concluded that the chapel had been rebuilt in that year: *ibid.*

⁶ The pulpit, organ, and seating date from 1894.

⁷ Inscription in Bridges, *op. cit.* i, 412.

⁸ Two of the old bells were by T. Briant, of Hertford, 1824, and the tenor was dated 1749: North, *Ch. Bells of Northants.* 196, where the inscriptions are given. In Bridges' time there were three bells dated 1653, the year in which the tower was repaired.

⁹ Markham, *Ch. Plate of Northants.* 37. The present plate was substituted for a cup given by Mrs. Madan, wife of the Bishop

of Peterborough, in 1808, an Elizabethan cover paten, and a salver, all of which were given in part payment of the new silver, the balance being paid by the rector.

¹⁰ Several children of the so-called Earl of Banbury were baptized between 1662-4, and on 15 February 1657-8 'Lady Anne Montague, daughter of the Rt. Hon. Robert Viscount Mandeville and Anne his lady'.

¹¹ *Curia Regis R.* i, 465; ii, 20.

¹² *Assize R.* 613.

¹³ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 2 Edw. I, no. 25.

¹⁴ *De Banco R.* 15, m. 26 d.

¹⁵ *Ibid.* 106, m. 17 d.



BOUGHTON: THE OLD CHURCH, 1773



BOUGHTON: RUINS OF THE OLD CHURCH

himself and his son Laurence, after his death;¹ and Sir Henry Green, who purchased the reversion of the manor in 1340,² conceiving the advowson to be appendant, brought an action against Sir Thomas de Preston in 1350, after the death of Sir Thomas and Joan de Boughton. Judgement was given for Sir Henry Green and damages were awarded him, being the value of the church for the past two years, during which a nominee of Sir Thomas had held the living.³ After this date the lords of the manor continued in undisturbed possession; but Anne, the widow of Richard Humphrey, and Augustus Crispe presented in 1551, 1554, and 1559 when they were holding the manor on lease.⁴ In 1254,⁵ and in 1291⁶ the church was valued at £6 and in 1535 the rectory was worth £21 per annum.⁷ In 1364 the Pope granted an indulgence of 1 year and 40 days to those who assisted the church of Boughton, in which many miracles of healing were wrought.⁸

Even before the parish church became quite ruinous in the 18th century its place was taken by a chapel in the village, the present church, for in 1547 the chantry commissioners noted that 'it is to be remembered that there ys one chapell situated within the town of Boughton, wherein comonly the said ii prestes do celebrate for the ease of the parishioners, for the parish church is distant iii pts. of a myle from ye towne or any house'.⁹

When, in 1257, Adam Russel and Alice his wife quitclaimed land in Boughton to Peter son of Roger de Boughton for the rent of supplying to the chaplain ministering daily in the chapel of St. John ½d. towards the support of the common light,¹⁰ it is probable that the reference is to the parish church, but the chapel seems

to be referred to in 1329 when licence was given for the continuation for a year of the chapel of St. Thomas the Martyr, built of old times.¹¹ This chapel probably originated in a chantry of uncertain foundation. In 1535 Richard Taylor and William Russell were the chantry priests there and the yearly value, which was £10, was divided between them as salary.¹² and when it was dissolved and the priests pensioned in 1547-8, there were no jewels or ornaments belonging to it.¹³ Part of the chantry's possessions, 10s., the rent of one cottage in Northampton, was claimed by the Crown in 1558 against Richard Hanington. These premises were devised to the two chantry priests in 1460 for a term of years which had expired by 1558 and Richard Hanington claimed them as heir to Anne Hanington, widow.¹⁴

The Charity of Richard Humphrey, *CHARITIES* or Humphrey, founded by will dated 30 November 1547 is regulated by a Scheme of the Charity Commissioners dated 14 April 1924. The property originally consisted of 3 cottages and about 50 acres of land in Pitsford. The cottages and land have been sold and the proceeds invested. The sum of £522 9s. 4d. is held to the account of the Church Extraordinary Repair Fund. The remaining stocks produce about £190 annually in dividends. The trustees are the rector and churchwardens, 2 trustees appointed by the parish meeting and 4 co-optative.

The Earl of Strafford's Charity consists of a yearly sum of £5 paid by Major-Gen. Howard-Vyse out of lands at Boughton and Pitsford which formerly belonged to the Earls of Strafford. The charity is distributed in fuel to poor householders.

KINGSTHORPE

Torp (xi cent.); Thorp (xii-xiii cents.); Kyngesthorpe (xiv cent.).

In 1900 the greater part of the civil parish of Kingsthorpe was added to the Northampton municipal borough while the remainder was amalgamated with Boughton and Moulton Park, but subsequently, in 1931, the remainder of the old parish was absorbed into the borough. The area of the old parish was 1,020 acres. Wheat, barley, rye, and potatoes are grown, while a small amount of market gardening is carried on by the villagers. The soil is light loam with a subsoil of lime and ironstone.

Kingsthorpe lies to the north of Northampton, with which it was formerly connected by an electric tramway, but this was replaced in 1935 by a motor-omnibus service. Except in the vicinity of the church and of the 'Green', where it retains some measure of its old-world picturesqueness, the village has become largely urban. A few old stone houses remain. Nos. 16-18 High Street is a thatched 17th-century building with modernized windows, and No. 8 Welford Road, with end gables and pantiled roof, is of about the same date. Within the last few years many villas and small houses have been built and entirely border one side of the hill which leads to Kingsthorpe. On the other side of the

road, however, a more countrified air is preserved by Kingsthorpe Hall, the residence of Francis Thornton, esq., which stands in nicely wooded grounds, surrounded by a park wall. The older part of the village lies west of the road ascending from Northampton and includes the church of St. John the Baptist, surrounded by fine elms, the old green on which is a spring called Kingswell, which never fails or freezes, and one of the three mills, known in old times as the Nether Mill and now called Kingsthorpe Mill. Of the other two mills, that known as the South or St. Andrew's Mill stands in the extreme south-west corner of the parish, where the ground lies as low as 206 ft., close to the site of the ancient priory of St. Andrew; the North Mill is the farthest away from the village and is now in Boughton parish.

The medieval hospital¹⁵ stood on the east side of the highway from Northampton at the entrance to the village.¹⁶ It had been converted into a blacksmith's shop before about 1870, when it was turned into a private house; further alterations and additions were made at a later period but the house, thus enlarged, was demolished in 1928. The ancient portions appear to have been of the late 12th century and included a wide blocked arch on the west side with two small lancet windows in the filling, a larger lancet (removed in 1897)

¹ Feet of F. Northants. 30 Edw. I, no. 413; Anct. D. (P.R.O.), A. 11018.

² Feet of F. Northants. 13 Edw. III, no. 195.

³ De Banco R. 363, m. 53.

⁴ Baker, *Northants*, i, 37.

⁵ Cott. MS. Nero. D. x, fol. 175 d.

⁶ *Pope Nich. Tax.* (Rec. Com.), 210, 43.

⁷ *Valor Eccles.* (Rec. Com.), iv, 323.

⁸ *Cal. Papal Pet.*, i, 500.

⁹ Chant. Cert. no. 36, fol. 10.

¹⁰ Feet of F. Northants. 41 Hen. III, no. 707.

¹¹ Linc. Epis. Reg. Memo. Burghershe, fol. 204 d.

¹² *Valor Eccles.* (Rec. Com.), iv, 323.

¹³ Chant. Cert. no. 36, fol. 10; *ibid.* no. 35, fol. 6; *Northants. N. & Q.* i, 105.

¹⁴ Memo. R. L.T.R. East. 1 Eliz. m. 63.

¹⁵ *P.C.H.* *Northants*, ii, 154-6.

¹⁶ The site is just within the mile radius from Northampton near the junction of Kingsthorpe Grove with the highway.

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in the west gable, and a diagonal angle buttress on which was an incised cross. Foundations of buildings, probably belonging to the chapel of the Holy Trinity, are reported to have been found to the south and south-east of the house and remains of stone coffins have been dug up.¹ The chapel of St. David, attached to the hospital, was situated nearer to Northampton,² and was a small rectangular building without buttresses measuring internally about 27 ft. long by 13 ft. 6 in. wide, with a plain continuous chamfered doorway at the west end and an east window of two lights.³ The chapel was converted, probably during the 18th century, into two

Borough Hospital for infectious diseases. Here is also a white freestone quarry which has provided stone for the barracks, the General Hospital, and several buildings in Sheep Street, Northampton.⁵ It used to be of considerable importance and in 1464 Margaret the widow of Sir William Lucy died seized of a quarry in Kingsthorpe, presumably this one.⁶ There are also limestone quarries and lime-kilns in the parish.

There is a Baptist chapel here built in 1835.

The name perpetuated in a street called Semilong is probably a corruption of South Millwong; for Henry Coup of Northampton in the reign of Henry IV mentions in his will 3 acres of arable land in the field of Kingsthorpe above the furlong called 'Southmylle-uonge' and in 1555 John Bayley was ordered to enlarge his ditch at 'South mylle uonge' near his mill on penalty of 6s. 8d.⁷

Through Kingsthorpe Hol-
lows runs a small stream, the Wallbeck, so called in the 16th century. In 1547 it was laid down at the court held at the manor that 'no man of no out Towne shall not digge nor dame nor fysche in the broke called Walbeck broke, from Swailuonng hedd to Walbecke, in penalty of 3s. 4d.'

Several families of considerable wealth and importance resided at Kingsthorpe in the 17th and 18th centuries, among them being those of the Cookes, Morgans, and Lanes. A Robert Cooke was bailiff here in the reigns of Henry VIII and Edward VI and was one of the three inhabitants sent up in 1547 to bring the important case of the rights of warren before the Star Chamber.⁸ His grandson Robert, who married Elizabeth Morgan, died in 1609⁹ and was succeeded by his son Francis,

who, dying in 1658,¹⁰ left several children, the eldest of whom, Francis, married Bridget the daughter of Sir Richard Lane and died without issue in 1704.¹¹ His sister Sarah married Sir William Pritchard, who was Lord Mayor of London in 1682 and Member for the City in the Parliament of 1702. He died in 1705, his widow surviving him till 1718;¹² she was a great benefactor to Kingsthorpe, for she repaired the church and built the tower house and by her will dated 26 April 1707 left £5 for apprenticing poor boys after they had been taught for 2 years in the free school. Her brother Thomas built the schoolhouse upon ground



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small cottages, a floor being placed at mid-height to form a second story and modern doorways and windows inserted in the side walls.⁴ The roof was covered with thatch, but some of the timbers appeared to be original. At some later time cottages were built against the chapel concealing the greater part of the west and the whole of the east end. The eastern gable and part of the north wall still stand, but the rest has been destroyed.

In the upper part of the village where the ground rises to 329 ft. are one or two boot factories which give employment to some of the inhabitants, and outside the village on the Harborough Road lies the Northampton

¹ *Assoc. Arch. Soc. Rep.* xxiv, 173: 'In 1882, when Lady Robinson came to reside at the house, the cottages adjoining the building on the northern side were removed, and new study, kitchen and offices were erected in their place. The old hall and staircase on the southern side were thrown into the dining room.' Plans and elevation of the house as it was in 1882 are given.

² Opposite the site of the old turnpike gate: *ibid.* 174.

³ *Ibid.* A plan, sections, and west elevation are given. There was a single light window over the doorway in the west gable. The side walls were 12 ft. high to the wall plate, and the gables about 24 ft. high.

⁴ *Ibid.* 173. Two fire-places were made, one to the north of the west doorway, the other at the east end the flue of which was carried up through the east window, the mullion of which and the apex of the arch were cut away. The mullion was used in

the jambs of one of the modern windows.

⁵ *V.C.H. Northants.* ii, 300.

⁶ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 6 Edw. IV, no. 29.

⁷ From Deeds in Kingsthorpe Church Chest, cited by Mr. Glover in *Kings-thorpiana*.

⁸ *Ibid.*

⁹ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), ccccx, 138.

¹⁰ *Ibid.* (Ser. 2), cccclxxiii, 49.

¹¹ *Serjeantson, Church of St. Peter*, 210 seq.

¹² *Dict. Nat. Biog.*

which he had purchased, gave it a neighbouring due, and settled £14 per annum upon the schoolmaster.¹ His grand-daughter Margaret married James Fremaux, who built the present Kingsthorpe Hall, which descended with the property to his grand-daughter Susannah, who married Thomas Reeve Thornton, in whose family the Cooke estate has remained.² Mr. T. R. Thornton's grandson, Mr. Francis H. Thornton, resides at the Hall at the present day, while the elder branch of the family has its seat at Brockhall in this county.³

The Sir Richard Lane whose daughter Bridget married Francis Cooke was the son of Richard Lane of Courteenhall and Elizabeth daughter of Clement Vincent of Harpole. Richard the son settled in Kingsthorpe and was Deputy Recorder of Northampton in 1615. In 1634 he was made Attorney-General to the Prince of Wales and in 1641 conducted the defence of Strafford, when impeached in the House of Lords, with such ability that his acquittal was almost certain, and to prevent this a Bill of Attainder was hurriedly substituted. Lane joined the king in Oxford in the spring of 1644 and was knighted there and also made Lord Chief Baron of the Exchequer. He was one of the commissioners on the part of the king at Uxbridge in 1645, and later in the year was created Lord Keeper, a patent which was renewed by Charles II whom he followed into exile in 1650, where he died the same year.⁴ In 1649 he had compounded for delinquency and his widow Margaret in 1650 took possession of the mansion house as her jointure, although it had been let by the Treason Trustees to Major Edward Houseman, militia commander, who wished to settle in it.⁵ In 1654 this estate was discharged from sequestration⁶ and Lady Margaret Lane lived at Kingsthorpe until her death there in 1669 and was buried in Kingsthorpe church.⁷

The parish has been inclosed under an Act passed in 1766.⁸

At the time of the Domesday Survey *MANOR KINGSTHORPE* belonged to the king and formed part of the ancient demesne of the Crown.⁹ The royal rights were never permanently alienated, but the manorial privileges lapsed in the 19th century.

In 1086 'Torp' was assessed at 4 hides and 3 virgates, and 1½ hides 1 bovat of land at Multon and 1 hide at Weston [Favell] were dependent on it;¹⁰ in the 12th century it comprised exactly the same amount of land.¹¹ It rendered £15 a year to the king¹² and the inhabitants themselves held their town, to which the Hundred of Spelhoe was appurtenant, at farm from the Crown at least as early as the reign of John.¹³ The farm paid in 1240 was £60,¹⁴ at which figure it remained for over

200 years. In 1373 the manor was committed to Sir Hugh Calvyle to hold during pleasure.¹⁵ Again in 1450 it was granted to John Aleyn for 12 years,¹⁶ but having reverted to the Crown was granted in 1484 to John Earl of Pembroke for 5 years,¹⁷ each grantee paying a farm of £60, but in the reign of Henry VI the inhabitants petitioned for its reduction on account of their poverty, and an inquisition was taken in 1439,¹⁸ shortly after which the farm was reduced to £50 for 40 years dating from the death of Joan, the widow of Henry IV, in 1437. This reduction was again confirmed from time to time down to 1594.¹⁹ In 1616, at the suit of the tenants, the manor was granted to trustees for the township, in order to prevent the payment of increased rent which had been exacted from the tenants each time the lease was renewed.²⁰ In this manner the township continued vested in trustees, vacancies being filled up by the choice of the feoffees, and is so held at the present day.²¹

The fee-farm, which in the 12th and 13th centuries was often paid as castleward to the Castle of Northampton,²² and which in 1252 was given for works at Northampton,²³ was afterwards frequently bestowed as dower upon the queens of England. It was granted by Henry III in 1270 to Eleanor wife of his son Edward,²⁴ and after her death it was bestowed in 1305 upon Margaret of France, the second wife of Edward I, in augmentation of her dower,²⁵ a grant which was confirmed by Edward II in 1310. After Queen Margaret's death it was given by Edward II to his wife Isabel in 1318.²⁶ In 1382 it was granted by Richard to his queen, Anne of Bohemia,²⁷ and although £40 of the farm was granted in 1400 to the Mayor of Northampton for 6 years to repair the walls of the town,²⁸ the grant was resolved in 1403, as the £40 was granted to Queen Joan of Navarre,²⁹ the mayor and burghers being compensated with 40 marks from the fee-farm of Northampton.³⁰ After Joan's death the abbot of St. James, Northampton, and the other executors of the will of Thomas Woodville received in 1439 a grant of £40 out of the fee-farm until the same amounted to £619, due to Thomas Woodville for keeping the lords of Stoutevill and Gaucourte.³¹ In 1454, at the expiration of this term, the £40 was bestowed upon Queen Margaret of Anjou but rescinded in 1464,³² and in the following year Queen Elizabeth, the consort of Edward IV, received the £40 in part support of the expenses of her chamber.³³ A few of these dowry grants must have included more than the mere fee-farm rent, as in 1314 Queen Margaret complained that her closes at Kings-



ENGLAND. Gules three leopards or.

¹ Serjeantson, *Church of St. Peter*.

² Ibid.

³ Burke, *Landed Gentry*.

⁴ *Dict. Nat. Biog.*

⁵ *Cal. of Com. for Compounding*, 2104.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ From tombstone in church.

⁸ *Priv. Act* 6 Geo. III, cap. 80.

⁹ *V.C.H. Northants.* i, 306.

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ Ibid. i, 381.

¹² *Pipe R.* (Pipe R. Soc.), Hen. II, Rich. I, John.

¹³ *Rot. Lit. Claus.* (Rec. Com.), i, 609, 633.

¹⁴ *Great R. of the Pipe* for 26 Hen. III

(ed. Cannon), 319.

¹⁵ *Fine R.* 47 Edw. III, m. 19.

¹⁶ Ibid. 29 Hen. VI.

¹⁷ Ibid. 33 Hen. VI.

¹⁸ *Cal. Pat.* 1436-41, p. 313; *Chan. Inq. Misc.* cccviii, 42.

¹⁹ *Cal. Pat.* 1467-77, p. 531; *Confirm. R.* 5 Hen. VII, no. 21; *Parl. R.* (Rec. Com.), vi, 501; *Orig. R. L.T.R.* 11 Hen. VIII, no. 14; *Star Chamb. Proc. Hen. VIII*, bdle. xxx, no. 80; *Pat.* 36 Eliz. pt. xiv.

²⁰ *Pat.* 14 Jas. I, pt. i; *Cal. S.P. Dom.* 1611-18, p. 359.

²¹ Information supplied by the Rev. R. M. Serjeantson.

²² *Pipe R.* (Pipe R. Soc.), Hen. II, Rich. I, John.

²³ *Close* 36 Hen. III, m. 7.

²⁴ *Cal. Chart.* 1257-1300, p. 143.

²⁵ *Cal. Pat.* 1301-7, p. 369; *ibid.* 1307-13, p. 217.

²⁶ *Cal. Close*, 1313-18, p. 538; *Cal. Pat.* 1330-4, p. 195; *ibid.* p. 530.

²⁷ *Cal. Pat.* 1381-5, p. 126.

²⁸ *Ibid.* 1399-1401, p. 322.

²⁹ *Ibid.* 1401-5, p. 234.

³⁰ *Ibid.* 1401-5, p. 333.

³¹ *Ibid.* 1436-41, p. 387.

³² *Parl. R.* (Rec. Com.), v, 262, 518.

³³ *Cal. Pat.* 1461-7, p. 430.

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thorpe had been broken into,¹ and in 1350 Queen Isabel lodged a complaint against divers persons who had broken her houses, carried away the timber there, and assaulted her servants.² On the accession of Henry VII, the whole fee-farm was appropriated to the maintenance of the royal household,³ and was apparently retained for this purpose until 1665 when £40 of the rent was granted to Katharine of Braganza.⁴ In 1672 it was sold by the trustees for the sale of fee-farm rents to Sir Richard Rainsford,⁵ whose grand-daughter and eventual heiress Anne brought it in marriage to the Honourable James Griffin, afterwards Lord Griffin of Braybrooke. They had two daughters, Anne who married William Whitwell of Oundle and Elizabeth the wife of Henry Neville Grey,⁶ who probably conveyed the fee-farm rent to Sir Joseph Jekyll in 1720, when they sold him the manor of Dallington,⁷ for in 1820, a century later, it was in the possession of Miss Ann Barbara Wrighte, descendant and eventual heiress of Sir Joseph Jekyll.⁸ Miss Wrighte died in 1830, when her estates devolved on her cousin Mr. George Thomas Wyndham of Cromer, Norfolk, who, dying the month after, was succeeded by his infant son George Thomas Wyndham, who, in the same year, obtained the right of using the name of Wrighte before Wyndham.⁹

As tenants of the ancient demesne of the Crown, the men of Kingsthorpe enjoyed special privileges, one of which was freedom of toll throughout England, which was confirmed to them at different times, in 1385, in 1438, and in 1650.¹⁰ They were not so successful, however, in resisting the encroachment of rights of warren and the matter was the subject of a long controversy during the 16th century. The keepers of Moulton Park claimed free warren extending into the parishes of Boughton and Kingsthorpe and caused holes to be made in the walls of the park so that the rabbits might run out into the fields. This proceeding was much resented by the inhabitants of Kingsthorpe, who said that 100 acres of grass and corn were destroyed, 80 acres of ground lay fallow, and that if there were no conies they would sow 40 more quarters of corn. They attempted to keep down the rabbits but were severely punished by the under-keepers, who placed them in the stocks kept in Moulton Lodge, took away their guns and ferrets, even beating and wounding the shepherds and killing their dogs.¹¹ When Sir Nicholas Vaux was keeper of the park he withheld lands from the inhabitants of Kingsthorpe and occupied them as warrens for rabbits. Thereupon the men of Kingsthorpe 'did plough up a whole clapper of conyes lying upon the flat beneath the foxholes, lying next the place called Whyte Hills' and brought a suit against Lord Vaux which was decided in their favour. However, on the condition that Lord Vaux 'should be goode and lovyng towards them for the sum of 13s. 4d. yearly', he was to occupy 4 'clappers' of conies in Kingsthorpe Heath from year to year at the will of the bailiff and inhabitants. After the death of Lord Vaux, the inhabitants ploughed up the ground, meaning to sow it for the 'relief of their pore chirche there', but the

under-keeper, Henry Maye, cut the plough gears of the parishioners.¹² On the other hand, a good deal of poaching must have been carried on. On one occasion, at the beginning of the reign of Henry VIII, one John Lawford and another man 'went oute of Northampton towne in a darke nyght with a lantern and a candell lyght in the same, into the warren between the felds of Northampton and Kyngesthorp, intending to stele conyes with a ferrett and purse nette'. They met the under-keeper, told him they were looking for a lost bullock and he bade them go their way to look for it 'and after they were departed from hym, they had that that they dyd come for'.¹³

In virtue of their farming the manor, the inhabitants constituted a 'commune', of which the 14th-century seal has been preserved. It is of latten, bearing the head of a king and a fleur-de-lis, with the legend: SIGILLVM COMMVNE DE KYNGESTHORPE. They made many ordinances for the good government of their township, e.g. allowing licensed begging for the impotent but sternly punishing those who begged on false pretences, and regulating the sale of ale.¹⁴

There used formerly to be a king and queen chosen for May games, on Easter Day after Evensong, every one refusing to officiate to pay 6s. 8d., of which half went to the bailiff and half to the church; this order was laid down at the court held in 1547 but the custom long ago fell into disuse.¹⁵

At the entrance to the village from Northampton on the east side stood the hospital of St. David and the Holy Trinity.¹⁶ As tenants under the hospital were the Butler family of Yelvertoft in the 14th century,¹⁷ and in 1379 the master, brethren, and sisters of the hospital leased all their meadows in Kingsthorpe to Elias Pecke.¹⁸ In 1535 the hospital paid to the king's bailiff 34s. rent for land held from the Crown in Kingsthorpe,¹⁹ and after its dissolution the Morgan family held some of the lands in lease from the Crown.²⁰ The Morgan estate in Kingsthorpe passed on the death of John, the last male representative in the direct line in 1721, to his daughter Mary, who brought it in marriage to Sir John Robinson, bart., in whose descendants it has continued, Sir Frederick Villiers Laud Robinson, of Cranford Hall, near Kettering, being the present proprietor.²¹ In 1799 Sir George Robinson, the son of Sir John mentioned above, purchased some of the hospital's possessions in Kingsthorpe and Boughton, &c., comprising the site of St. David's, on which he built the house known as St. David's.²²



ROBINSON, of Cranford.
*Vert a hart tripping in
an orle of treffoils or.*

The Friars Minor of Northampton received licence in 1278 to cover the spring of Froxwelle in the field of Kingsthorpe and to bring the water to their house in Northampton,²³ and in 1291 they were further allowed to unite the course of the spring, called Triwell, then

¹ *Cal. Pat.* 1313-17, pp. 135, 410.

² *Ibid.* 1348-50, p. 530.

³ *Parl. R.* (Rec. Com.), vi. 301.

⁴ *Pat.* 17 Chas. II, pt. ix, m. 1.

⁵ *Close* 24 Chas. II, pt. x, no. 7.

⁶ *Burke, Peerage.*

⁷ *Feet of F. Northants.* Trin. 6 Geo. I.

⁸ *Baker, Northants.* i, 131-2; *Burke's Commoners*, ii, 246.

⁹ *Ibid.*; *Lipscomb, Bucks.* i, 151.

¹⁰ *Close R.* 8 Rich. II, m. 7 and 11;

Cal. Pat. 1436-41, p. 131; *Memo. R.* L.T.R. Trin. 1650, m. 42.

¹¹ From Deeds in Kingsthorpe Church Chest cited by Glover in *Kingsthorpiana*, xii, xviii, xxiii.

¹² *Star Cham. Proc.* Hen. VIII, bdle.

xxx, no. 80.

¹³ Glover, *Kingsthorpiana*, viii.

¹⁴ *Ibid.* iv.

¹⁶ *V.C.H. Northants.* ii, 154.

¹⁷ *Anct. D.* (P.R.O.), C. 275; *ibid.* C. 617.

¹⁸ *Ibid.* C. 876.

¹⁹ *Valor Eccles.* (Rec. Com.), iv, 322.

²⁰ *Baker, Northants.* i, 40.

²¹ *G.E.C. Baronetage*, iii, 52; *Serjeantson, Church of St. Peter*, 188 seq.

²² *Baker, Northants.* i, 40.

²³ *Inq. a.q.d.* file iv, no. 18.

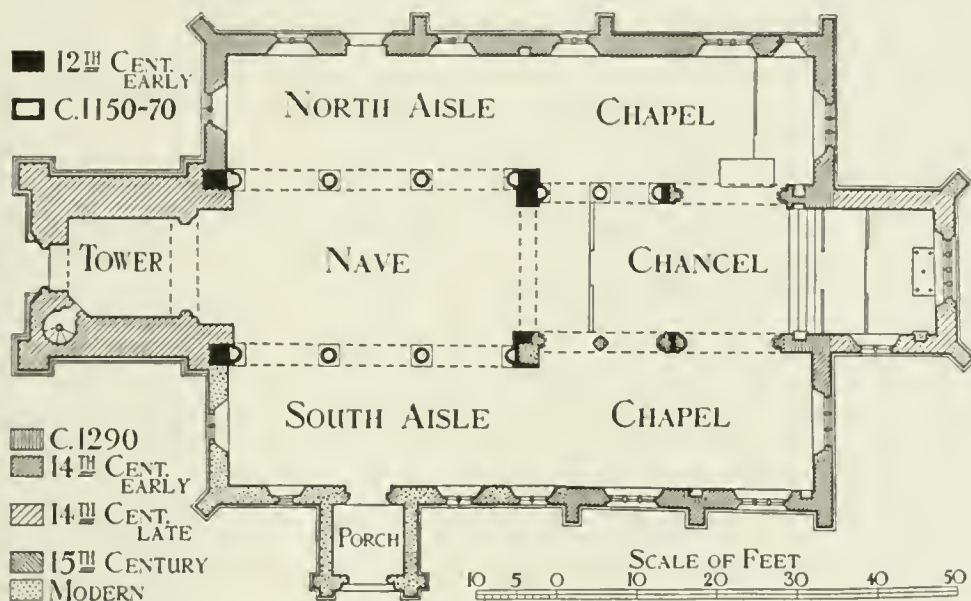
running in three directions between Northampton and Kingsthorpe, and to lead it to their house by a subterranean conduit.¹

The hospital of St. John the Baptist and St. John the Evangelist also held land in Kingsthorpe of the king for which it paid the bailiff 17d. in 1535.²

The three *MILLS* in Kingsthorpe already referred to are mentioned in the Survey of 1086 as worth 43s. 4d. a year.³ They were held, with the rest of the manor, on lease from the Crown and were rented out by the inhabitants. The South Mill was let on lease to St. Andrew's Priory, to which it was in close proximity, but the tenants of the Crown resisted the priory's claim

1 day's work at mowing and 1 cask of ale containing 26 gallons or 2s. 2d.⁸ When the South Mill was let in 1529, the lessee was ordered to scour the ditches, to serve the inhabitants before strangers and as soon as the 'bene' should be empty; also to pay 2s. 2d. towards the mowing of the holmes.⁹ In 1547 the millers were ordered to make a plank which could be crossed at all times, and to make sufficient meal and malt for the inhabitants who were obliged to have their corn ground at the town mills.¹⁰

During the 16th century the Cooke family were lessees of the North Mill.¹¹ In 1614 the three mills were leased to William Whitmore and Edmund Sawyer sub-



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to free fishing in the river between the Nether and South Mills. On the court rolls of 1411 Richard Napton, the Prior of St. Andrews, his monks and servants, were accused of fishing in the 'Shote' of the South Mill and of making a weir to the harm of the town of Kingsthorpe.⁴ In 1413 the prior promised to abstain from fishing until the matter was settled either by arbitration or by the Bench,⁵ but evidently no satisfactory arrangement was come to, for between 1442 and 1449 the prior alleged that the bailiff and others came armed to the mill and then to the gates of the monastery to destroy it while the monks were at divine service. They then went to the field of Northampton and broke and dug up the head of the conduit and then came back to the gates, waiting to catch any of the monks.⁶

In 1439 the South and Nether Mills were rented at 80s. each, while the North Mill was worth only 40s. a year⁷ and in 1457 the four water-mills called the South Mills, under 1 roof, 2 for grinding corn and 2 for fulling, together with the going gear (goyn geres), pond, fishery, and the produce of 1 holme of meadow lying between the water and the mill were leased to William Braunfeld for 10 years at the rent of 7 marks,

ject to a fee-farm rent of £12 12s. 4d., of which £2 10s. was paid for the North Mill, £4 4s. for the Nether Mill, and £5 18s. 4d. for the South Mill.¹² This fee-farm rent was granted to Queen Katharine in 1665¹³ and was sold to Sir Richard Rainsford in 1672,¹⁴ together with that of the manor, and since then has descended with it.

During the 17th century, the Morgan family were lessees of the three mills, which passed with the rest of their estate to Sir John Robinson.¹⁵ The Robinson family continued to own the mills, subject to the fee-farm rent, until the end of the 19th century when they were sold to different purchasers.¹⁶

The church of *ST. JOHN THE CHURCH BAPTIST* stands north of the village green and consists of chancel, 50 ft. by 15 ft. 6 in., with north and south chapels; clerestoried nave, 35 ft. 2 in. by 12 ft. 3 in.; north and south aisles, respectively 14 ft. and 14 ft. 6 in. wide; south porch; and west tower, 12 ft. 3 in. square with spire, all these measurements being internal. The chapels cover the chancel for more than two-thirds of its length, and are continuations of the aisles: the total internal length of the church is 108 ft. and its width 53 ft. 6 in.

¹ *Cal. Pat.* 1281-92, p. 442.

² *Valor Eccles.* (Rec. Com.), iv, 317.

³ *F.C.H. Northants.* i, 306.

⁴ Glover, *Kingsthorpeiana*, iv.

⁵ *Ibid.* ii.

⁶ *Early Chan. Proc.* bdle. xv, no. 106.

⁷ *Chan. Inq. Misc.* cccviii, no. 42.

⁸ Glover, *Kingsthorpeiana*, v.

⁹ *Ibid.* xv.

¹⁰ *Ibid.* xix.

¹¹ *Ibid.* xxviii, xxxiv, xxix; *Acts of P.C.* 1591-2, p. 123.

¹² *Pat.* 11 Jas. I, pt. xxv, m. 1.

¹³ *Ibid.* 17 Chas. II, pt. ix, m. 1.

¹⁴ *Close* 24 Chas. II, pt. x, m. 7.

¹⁵ *Add. Ch.* 25631; Glover, *Kingsthorpeiana*, xlii, xi.

¹⁶ *Ibid.* xi.

A HISTORY OF NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

The first church was an aisleless building of c. 1100, with nave the same size as at present and small, probably square-ended, chancel. Remains of this early building exist in three small round-headed windows in the north and south walls of the nave over the easternmost piers and on the north side of the chancel over the first pier from the west. The heads only of the nave windows remain, but that in the chancel is fairly perfect on what was originally the outside. These openings are only 4 in. wide but splay out internally to 3 ft. 4 in. and finish outwardly with a narrow chamfer. What remains exposed of the ancient walling of the chancel is of rubble with roughly laid herring-bone work.¹

About 1150-60 the north wall of the chancel was pierced at its west end² with two small semicircular arches of a single unmoulded order springing from a cylindrical pier and from half-round responds with large scalloped capitals and moulded bases, opening probably to a chapel. The nave arcades appear to have been pierced a little later, c. 1160-70, and aisles added. The arcades are of three bays with semicircular arches of a single unmoulded order on circular piers and half-round responds, but the capitals display soffit foliage of an incipient type, the square abaci are finely moulded,³ and the bases show well-developed water-moulding. Both chancel and nave arches have large nail-head hood-moulds on the inner side.

In the latter part of the 13th century, c. 1290, the south wall of the chancel was pierced with two pointed double-chamfered arches,⁴ springing from a central pier composed of four groups of triple shafts clustered round an octagon, with moulded capitals and bases, and from plain half-octagonal responds. The chancel was lengthened at the same time, and during the first half of the 14th century the aisles and chapels appear to have been rebuilt and extended eastward, the chapels opening to the chancel by broad arches, the original chancel arch being taken down and a new one erected farther east between the piers of the arcades and the wall carried up above to form a new east end to the thus extended nave.⁵ The clerestory was probably added at this time, extending as far eastward as the new arch with four windows on each side, and the south chapel is said to have been widened at the time of its rebuilding.⁶

The tower and spire were built late in the 14th century but much altered subsequently, and about 1380-1400 the chancel was again lengthened, the new east end being raised above a vaulted crypt. No further additions to the fabric have since been made, but the alterations in the 19th century were extensive. About 1851 changes were made in the east bay of the chancel, a window on the south side being removed, and other ancient features obliterated.⁷ In 1863 there was a restoration of the whole fabric, amounting in parts to a rebuilding, the extent of which may be thus summarized: the 14th-century chancel arch was taken

down and a new one erected farther west in the position of the original Norman arch, with a new east gable to the nave above it, to which the chancel roof was extended; the whole of the clerestory was taken down and rebuilt in its present form, the easternmost bay over the west end of the chancel being removed with the 14th-century chancel arch; the west arch of the north nave arcade, part of the arch next to it, and the four nave piers were renewed;⁸ the south aisle and porch were rebuilt, the aisle wall being then advanced in line with that of the south chapel;⁹ and the nave, aisles, and chapels were newly roofed. The upper part of the tower was refaced with ashlar in 1923-4.

The roof of the chancel is of high-pitch and covered with modern tiles, but the other roofs are low-pitched and leaded behind plain parapets. The chapels have low gables at the east end. The porch is tiled. Internally, with the exception of the tower, the walls are plastered.

The chancel has a modern east window of four lights with vertical tracery; the diagonal buttresses are also modern and the two-light window in the south wall was inserted in 1901.¹⁰ The floor of the late-14th-century extension is raised four steps and its north wall is blank, but in the usual position in the south wall is a good contemporary piscina. Farther west is a large trefoiled piscina of the late-13th-century chancel and opposite to it, at the north end of the steps, is a small trefoiled recess. The two broad early-14th-century arches opening to the chapels are of two chamfered orders, west of which are the earlier arcades already described. The modern chancel arch is carried on corbels, but the dwarf screen wall of the ritual chancel is a half-bay farther east. The altar rails are of early-17th-century date, with turned balusters, but the hammer-beam roof is modern. The 14th-century crypt, or bone house,¹¹ below the eastern bay, is approached from the churchyard on the south side,¹² and is 15 ft. 6 in. square and about 10 ft. high. It is vaulted in two bays each of two compartments, the chamfered ribs springing from a central octagonal pier and from half-octagonal responds, all with moulded capitals and chamfered bases. The crypt is lighted by two square-headed windows on the east and one on the south.

The east window of the south chapel is of three lights with intersecting tracery,¹³ and if contemporary with the clustered pier on the south side of the chancel was moved eastward to its present position when the chapel was lengthened. The two square-headed windows of the south chapel are of three trefoiled lights with moulded jambs and mullions, the outer moulding being enriched all round with four-leaf flowers. West of these, in the modern wall of the aisle east of the porch, are inserted two pointed 14th-century windows of two trefoiled lights, but west of the porch the windows are modern. The whole of the north wall is of the 14th

¹ The walling is left exposed on the north side towards the chapel: the windows were discovered in 1863.

² It probably extended a bay farther east.

³ In contrast with the chamfered abaci of the chancel arcade.

⁴ Or two arches, inserted at the same time as those opposite, may have been rebuilt. According to the Rev. H. L. Elliot, a portion of a late-11th-century window was found over the south pier of the chancel as well as on the north side: Serjeantson, *Hist. of Ch. of St. Peter, N'ton*, 148. Mr. Serjeantson's account of Kingsthorpe

church has been used in the present description.

⁵ Serjeantson, op. cit. 153.

⁶ Ibid. 151.

⁷ Ibid. 154, quoting report of clerk of works 1863. Before 1851 the chancel had 'a very ancient doorway inserted in its north wall'.

⁸ The arcades and clerestory walls were out of the perpendicular and the west arch on the north side was depressed and sunk.

⁹ Serjeantson, op. cit. 155.

¹⁰ The window removed from this position in 1851 was of three lights: the wall

was then built solid. Buttresses in the east end were also removed at the same time.

¹¹ When the crypt was cleared out in 1863 a considerable number of human bones were found: clerk of works' report quoted in Serjeantson, op. cit. 154. The crypt is now used as a heating chamber.

¹² There appears never to have been any opening to the crypt from inside the church.

¹³ The corresponding window in the north chapel is a modern copy of this, but the original window may have been similar: ibid. 151.

century, and has a good continuous moulded doorway and three two-light windows to the aisle with a quatrefoil in the heads.¹ In the chapel is a later window with depressed head, and east of it a single-light trefoiled window with ogee hood-mould.

Remains of medieval ritual arrangements are plentiful. There are two piscinas in the south chapel, one at the east end of early-14th-century date with trefoil head, and near to it an aumbry which retains its door, the other with a rounded head within a pointed arch probably of c. 1200.² In the north chapel a very beautiful late-13th-century piscina, with roll and fillet mouldings and trefoiled internal head retaining traces of colour, has been built into the south wall, and in the portion of 12th-century walling farther west, between the responds of the earlier and later arches, are the remains of another piscina and a consecration cross. In the north wall, opposite the chancel arch, is a trefoiled aumbry, and at the back of the south-east respond of the nave arcade, opening from the south chapel, is a recess (now blocked) for a processional cross, or banner stave, with pointed head and hood-mould.³ Pointed doorways to the rood-loft occur west of the broad arches on either side and in the outer wall of the south chapel, the latter with a cusped canopy, the loft having extended across the church, but no steps remain.

The tower is of three stages with moulded plinth, clasping buttresses of two stages, and battlemented parapet. There is a vice in the south-west angle. The lower and half the middle stage are of ancient ironstone but at this height the modern ashlar facing begins. The west doorway is of two continuous moulded orders and the window above it of three cinquefoiled lights with vertical tracery.⁴ The tall bell-chamber windows are transomed and of two trefoiled lights with quatrefoil in the head, the hood-mould being taken round the tower as a string. The lofty tower arch is of three chamfered orders, the inner on half-octagonal responds,⁵ and the ground story has an old wooden roof. Built into the tower walls inside are five consecration crosses—four in the north wall and one in the south. The spire has plain angles and three tiers of lights on its cardinal faces.

The font dates from 1863, but the oak pulpit is Jacobean with arcaded panels,⁶ and there are some old stall ends with poppy heads in the chancel.⁷

In the porch is a wooden cupboard with glazed front, for the loaves of George Cook's Bread Charity, inscribed: 'Mr. George Cook gave in y^e Year 1690 the Interest of a Hundred Pounds to be gave in Bread, Every Sunday to 12 Poor People of this Parish for ever.'

On the north wall of the chancel is an alabaster monument to Dr. Edward Reynolds, rector of St. Peter's, Northampton, 1658–98, with long Latin inscription, and on the south wall tablets to Mabel wife of

Francis Morgan (d. 1664) and others of the family, Mary wife of Sir John Robinson of Cranford (d. 1734), and to the Rev. R. W. Baxter, rector of St. Peter's (d. 1850).⁸ In the south chapel is a floor-slab with brass inscription to Francis Morgan (d. 1704) and Elizabeth his wife (1706), and a slab to Walter Faunt (d. 1695) and his wife Mabel (d. 1698), daughter of Francis Morgan. Other monuments recorded by Bridges have disappeared.⁹

There is a ring of six bells, the treble by Alfred Bowell of Ipswich 1911, the second and fourth by Robert Atton of Buckingham 1621, the third dated 1680, the fifth inscribed 'Paroecie campana ecclesie tuba 1622', and the tenor dated 1671.¹⁰

The plate consists of a silver cup and cover, paten, flagon, bread-holder, and alms dish of 1678 given in that year by 'Mrs. Mary Reynolds, relict of Edward, late Lord Bishop of Norwich, and mother of Edward Reynolds, D.D.', and a silver-plated chalice given in 1875.¹¹

The registers before 1812 are as follows: (i) baptisms June 1540–1789, marriages October 1539–1750, burials March 1539–40 to 1789; (ii) marriages 1754–1812; (iii) baptisms and burials 1789–1812. There is a gap from 1653 to 1660.

The church of Kingsthorpe, together with that of Upton, had been attached from time immemorial to St. Peter's in Northampton, to which it was merely a chapel of ease, when in 1850 it was separated from the mother church and constituted a separate parish.¹² The history of the advowson is, therefore, similar to that of St. Peter's (q.v.).

There was a chantry within the parish church of Kingsthorpe founded by John Bacon in 1471 to maintain a priest to sing for ever at Our Lady's altar and to pray for the souls of John Bacon, his father and mother, and of his wife Agnes.¹³ In 1530 its possessions were worth £4 yearly,¹⁴ but towards the end of the same reign its lands were valued at £6 5s., of which 70s. 4d. was paid to the priests as salary, the ornaments being worth 3s. 4d.¹⁵ The inhabitants of Kingsthorpe claimed the lands belonging to the chantry as copyhold¹⁶ but were unsuccessful in their claim and the Crown appropriated the lands, part of which were leased to the Mottershed family who held an estate in Kingsthorpe.¹⁷ John Mottershed by his will dated 14 April 1594 left his lands to his son William who died seized of them in 1625,¹⁸ the latter's son Thomas obtaining certain lands in fee simple from the trustees of the manor in 1633.¹⁹ One of the family called Edward, who died in 1643, gave five chained books to the church which are still there.²⁰ Other of the chantry lands were obtained by the Pilkington family, one of whom, Thomas, died seized of them in 1637 and was succeeded by his son Thomas.²¹

¹ The west window is modern.

² It rests on a portion of early string and has been built into the wall for preservation. It has subsequently been altered to receive a door: Serjeantson, op. cit. 151.

³ This recess, or locker, had originally been fitted with a wooden door in two sections, hung with hook and band hinges. The external opening is 5 ft. 6 in. high and 10 in. wide. It was walled up in 1863 and the doors removed: ibid. 151.

⁴ The mullions and tracery have been renewed. The bell-chamber windows are wholly renewed.

⁵ On the east side the outer order dies

out and the middle one is continued to the ground; on the west both die out.

⁶ It has seven panelled sides, the eighth being open.

⁷ They are figured in Serjeantson, op. cit. 156, 158, 160.

⁸ The inscriptions on these monuments are given, ibid. 182–4.

⁹ One in the chancel was to Lady Margaret Lane (d. 1669), wife of Sir Richard Lane, Lord Keeper of the Great Seal of England.

¹⁰ North, *Ch. Bells of Northants.* 322, where the inscriptions on the five old bells

are given. The bells were re-hung and the treble added in 1911.

¹¹ Markham, *Ch. Plate of Northants.* 173.

¹² *Parl. P.* 1872, xlii, no. 227.

¹³ Chant. Cert. 35, no. 7.

¹⁴ *Valor Eccles.* (Rec. Com.), iv, 320.

¹⁵ Chant. Cert. 36, no. 4.

¹⁶ Ibid. 35, no. 7.

¹⁷ Chan. Proc. Eliz. M.m. 9, no. 25.

¹⁸ Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), dcxxx, 41.

¹⁹ Glover, *Kingsthorpiana*, xlii.

²⁰ Cox and Harvey, *Eng. Church Furniture.*

²¹ Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), dlxxxvii, 73.

A HISTORY OF NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

Margaret at Park c. 1389 gave to William Holcot half an acre of land above Northmill furlong for finding one candle of wax before the feast of St. Christopher in front of the altar of St. Katharine.¹

The Bush Close or the Poor Close.

CHARITIES An allotment of about 14 acres was set out on the inclosure of the parish in 1766, for the use of the poor. The land was sold in 1896 and the proceeds invested, producing about £30 yearly in dividends. The trustees consist of the vicar and four trustees appointed by the Urban District Council of Kingsthorpe in place of the churchwardens and overseers, and the Corporation of Northampton may appoint two additional trustees. The income is distributed to old people and widows.

The Bread Fund originally consisted of £230 Consols purchased in 1780 with £165, of which £100 was given by George Cook in 1690 and the remainder by persons of the name of Clarke and Gooding and other benefactors. The stock has been increased to £280 by the investment of accumulations, and the income amounting to £7 yearly is distributed in bread by the vicar and two trustees appointed by the Urban District Council in place of the churchwardens.

The Manor and Town Charity. An allotment of about 16 acres was set out on the inclosure in lieu of lands anciently appropriated to the repair of the highways and wells. There was also a schoolhouse known as the Manor House held for the same purposes. This latter property was sold in 1907 and the proceeds were invested in £208 3s. 6d. Consols producing £5 4s. in dividends. The land is let in allotments and produces about £35. The income is applied in the upkeep of the church clock and in paying the beadle's and clerk's salaries.

Dame Sarah Pritchard by her will proved in the

Prerogative Court of Canterbury in May 1718 gave £5 yearly to be applied in apprenticing poor boys. The charity is administered by the vicar and two trustees appointed by the Urban District Council in place of the churchwardens. The last premium was paid in 1917, and there does not appear to have been any boy apprenticed since then.

The Kingsthorpe Bounty was founded by the Rev. Robert William Baxter by deed poll dated 21 December 1842. The endowment originally consisted of £1,200 3 per cent. Reduced Bank Annuities and the deed directed that £24 a year should be distributed by the rector equally among 12 men and 12 women, £7 should be applied in apprenticing boys, and £5 to the parish clerk. The endowment now produces £30 yearly, and the income is applied as nearly as possible in accordance with the terms of the deed.

The Glover Augmentation Fund was founded by the Rev. John Hulbert Glover by deed poll dated 14 November 1900. This endowment produces £25 per annum, which is applicable by the vicar in augmenting in equal amounts the annuities payable under the Kingsthorpe Bounty.

Mark Bailey by his will proved at Birmingham 11 May 1888 gave a sum of money now producing 4s. 4d. yearly, to the vicar and churchwardens, the income to be applied in bread to the poor. This is distributed at the same time as the bread fund.

The several sums of stock above-mentioned are with the Official Trustees of Charitable Funds.

Mrs. M. A. Parker by her will proved at Northampton 13 December 1905 gave £100 to the trustees of the Kingsthorpe Baptist Chapel for the benefit of the poor of the church and congregation. The dividends amounting to £3 10s. 4d. yearly are distributed in cash payments of about 5s. each.

MOULTON

Multone, Moltone (xi cent.).

The parish of Moulton covers an area of 3,139 acres; the ground is fairly undulating and of an open nature except for a few plantations. The chief crops are wheat, barley, peas, and beans, and the soil is clay and marl with a subsoil of ironstone and rock. The population, which was 1,638 in 1931, is chiefly engaged in agriculture, but includes many persons engaged in trade and manufacture in Northampton.

The village, which is large and straggling, lies about half a mile west of the high road to Kettering. In the village are a fair number of 17th-century gabled stone houses, generally with thatched roofs, but in most cases the mullioned windows have been modernized. On one is a well-designed panel inscribed '1711 A° 1658', on another 'C^Ws 1660', whilst the Artichoke Inn, a two-story building retaining its mullioned windows, is dated 1680 and has the initials R^{MA}. There is a Methodist chapel in the main street, and a Baptist chapel at the west end of the village built while the well-known Dr. William Carey, Professor of Sanskrit in Fort William College, India, and founder of the Baptist Missionary Society, was minister here (1785-9). The church stands to the north, rather on the outskirts of the village, while the vicarage is more central, near the schools. To the north-west of the church lies the Manor Farm, built on the site of the old manor-house, with traces of

ponds still remaining. Bridges, writing about 1720, speaks of it as 'the new house, now called the Hall'. About half a mile farther north, to the right of the road leading to Holcot, and parallel with New Fox Court and Hog Hole Spinney, is the artificial elevation known as Castle Hill, which may have been the site of the Fitz John's manor, for foundations of buildings have been dug up and the remains of a moat are apparent.

A small stream crosses the parish, and where it passes under the road leading from the village to Moulton Grange the neighbouring ground reaches an elevation of 298 ft. only and is the lowest lying land in the parish, and farther on, where the stream forms the western boundary for a few hundred yards, stands Moulton Mill, with the old windmill, now disused, to the south-east. About three-quarters of a mile west of Moulton is Holly Lodge, built about 1861 and now the seat and property of Mr. J. T. P. Jeyes, while 2 miles north of the village is Moulton Grange, standing in a pleasantly wooded park where the elevation of 412 ft. is reached, the property of Mrs. Manfield. The northern boundary of the parish is formed by a stream which separates it from Brixworth, and in 1276 Simon son of Simon of Brixworth was accused of appropriating the fishing in a certain stretch of water between the fields of Brixworth and Moulton.² Part of the parish was inclosed under an Act passed in 1772.³

¹ Glover, *Kingsthorpiana*, iv.

² *Hund. R.* (Rec. Com.), ii, 13.

³ Priv. Act. 12 Geo. III, cap. 139.



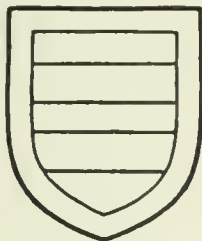
MOULTON: VILLAGE AND CHURCH



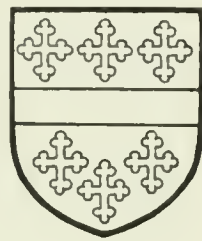
MOULTON: Old Houses

In 1086 the chief manor of *MOULTON* was held of the Countess Judith¹ and continued to form part of the honor of Huntingdon, whose descent is *MANOR* traced under Yardley Hastings. It is last mentioned as attached to this honor in 1439, when the Earl of Warwick so held it of Sir Reynold Grey of Ruthin.²

As under-tenant at the time of the Domesday Survey stood Grimbald,³ whose descendants held Moulton until the middle of the 13th century. His grandson Robert Grimbald married Maud, the daughter and co-heir of Pain de Houghton.⁴ After his death his widow married Richard de la Pek,⁵ who held the manor in her right towards the end of the 12th century.⁶ Robert Grimbald was returned in 1242 as holding of the honor of Huntingdon in Moulton,⁷ but the actual manor is said to have been acquired from the Grimbalds in the reign of Richard I by Geoffrey Fitz Piers, Earl of Essex,⁸ whose descendant⁹ and heir, John Fitz John, certainly held the manor and in 1276 was holding a view of frankpledge in his court from his tenants, who were geldable at the hundred and had not paid suit of court there for 20 years.¹⁰ On his death in the same year, the manor, then held mainly as one fee of William Grimbald, passed to his brother Richard,¹¹ who also died without issue in 1297, leaving three sisters or their descendants as his heirs.¹² Moulton, which was then worth £43 6s. 11d. yearly, was at first assigned to Maud, the eldest sister, wife of William de Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick,¹³ but a subsequent partition awarded the manor to the heirs of Isabel de Vipont, a second sister and co-heir. They were Idonea her daughter, widow of Roger de Leyburn, and Robert de Clifford her grandson.¹⁴ Idonea, who married John de Cromwell, held half the manor in 1292¹⁵ but probably acquired the remaining half from Robert de Clifford soon after, as her husband was lord of Moulton in 1316¹⁶ and no further mention is found of the manor in moieties. In 1325 Robert de Wombwell and Robert Tree were fined £300 for damages done by wilful entry of Moulton and Yardley Manors, where they devastated John Cromwell's goods and furniture and expelled him by force and arms,¹⁷ but in the following year Moulton was given to Roger de Bilney as John remained abroad aiding the queen against the king.¹⁸ The profits of the



GRIMBALD. *Argent two bars azure and a border gules.*



BEAUCHAMP. *Gules a fesse between six crosslets or.*

manor and all things pertaining to her chamber were, however, granted to Idonea¹⁹ and Moulton was restored to John by Edward III in 1327.²⁰ In 1330 John and Idonea Cromwell claimed view of frankpledge in the manor.²¹ John died shortly afterwards, and on his widow's death in 1334, without issue, Moulton passed, according to the terms of a settlement made in 1320, to Edward the son of Hugh le Despenser the younger, hanged in 1326.²² It is likely, however, that this settlement never took effect and that the manor was acquired by the Beauchamps, Earls of Warwick, co-heirs with Isabel de Vipont, as in 1339 Thomas de Beauchamp, 11th Earl of Warwick, settled it on his daughter Joan on the occasion of her marriage with Ralph grandson of Ralph Basset of Drayton, the final reversion of the manor being vested in the Earl of Warwick.²³ The elder Ralph dying in 1343²⁴ and his widow in 1353,²⁵ their grandson Ralph succeeded them in the lordship²⁶ and received a grant of free warren in 1360.²⁷ Ralph died in 1390, when the manor reverted to Thomas Beauchamp, son and heir of the 11th Earl.²⁸ On the arrest of the Earl for high treason in 1396, Moulton with the other estates was forfeited,²⁹ but restored on the accession of Henry IV and passed on Thomas Beauchamp's death in 1401 to his son Richard,³⁰ who by his second wife Isabel le Despenser, Countess of Worcester, left a son Henry, aged 15 when he succeeded to Moulton on the death of his father and mother in 1439.³¹ Henry died in 1446, leaving an infant daughter Anne Countess of Warwick,³² who died three years later, when the manor devolved on Anne sister of the whole blood to Richard and wife of Sir Richard Neville, created Earl of Warwick and known as 'The King-Maker'.³³ After his death on the battle-field of Barnet in 1471, his estates were divided between his two daughters and co-heirs, although his widow Anne was still alive.³⁴ Having survived both her daughters, however, she obtained the restitution of her estates by Act of Parliament in 1487,³⁵ but was obliged to surrender them to the king in the following year.³⁶ Henry VII and Henry VIII kept the manor in their own hands, and during the latter's reign the services of several of the king's retainers were rewarded with the office of bailiff of the manor or grants of free warren and land.³⁷ In 1550 Edward VI bestowed Moulton on the Princess

¹ *V.C.H. Northants.* i, 352.

² *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 17 Hen. VI, no. 54.

³ *V.C.H. Northants.* i, 352.

⁴ *Cott. MS. Vesp. E. xvii*, fols. 46 d.,

47. ⁵ *Ibid.* fol. 47; *Farrer, Honors and Knights' Fees*, i, 37.

⁶ *V.C.H. Northants.* i, 381.

⁷ *Bk. of Fees*, 938.

⁸ *Farrer*, op. cit. ii, 302.

⁹ *G.E.C. Peerage* (2nd ed.), v, 433-5.

¹⁰ *Hund. R.* (Rec. Com.), ii, 13.

¹¹ *Cal. Pat.* 1272-81, p. 113; *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 4 Edw. I, no. 47.

¹² *Ibid.* 25 Edw. I, no. 50a. This is the last appearance of the Grimbald mesne lordship.

¹³ *Cal. Close*, 1296-1302, p. 144.

¹⁴ *Ibid.* p. 248; *Abbrev. Rot. Orig.* (Rec. Com.), i, 107.

¹⁵ *Feet of F. Div. Co.* 30 Edw. I, no.

271.

¹⁶ *Feud. Aids*, iv, 23.

¹⁷ *Abbrev. Plac.* (Rec. Com.), 354.

¹⁸ *Abbrev. Rot. Orig.* (Rec. Com.), i,

299; *Cal. Close*, 1323-7, p. 603.

¹⁹ *Cal. Pat.* 1324-7, p. 313.

²⁰ *Close R.* 1 Edw. III, pt. i, m. 21-2;

cited by *Blore in Rutland*, 18.

²¹ *Plac. de quo War.* (Rec. Com.), 560-1.

²² *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 8 Edw. III (1st nos.),

no. 66; *Dict. Nat. Biog.*; *Feet of F. Div.*

Co. 14 Edw. II, no. 8.

²³ *Ibid.* Northants. 13 Edw. III, no. 181;

Add. MS. 28024.

²⁴ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 17 Edw. III (1st nos.),

no. 59.

²⁵ *Cal. Close*, 1346-9, p. 582; *Chan. Inq.*

p.m. 27 Edw. III (1st nos.), no. 43.

²⁶ *Cal. Close*, 1349-54, p. 587.

²⁷ *Chart. R.* 34-5 Edw. III, m. 6, no.

20.

²⁸ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 14 Rich. II, no. 9.

²⁹ *Dict. Nat. Biog.*; *Chan. Inq. p.m.*

21 Rich. II, no. 137.

³⁰ *Ibid.* 2 Hen. IV, no. 58.

³¹ *Feet of F. Div. Co.* 2 Hen. VI, no. 11;

Chan. Inq. p.m. 17 Hen. VI, no. 54; *ibid.*

18 Hen. VI, no. 3.

³² *Ibid.* 24 Hen. VI, no. 43.

³³ *G.E.C. Peerage*, viii, 60; *Feet of F.*

Div. Co. 6 Edw. IV, no. 41.

³⁴ *Parl. R.* (Rec. Com.), vi, 100.

³⁵ *Ibid.* 391.

³⁶ *Feet of F. Div. Co.* Hil. 3 Hen. VII;

De Banco R. Hil. 3 Hen. VII, m. 208;

Anct. D. (P.R.O.), A. 11056.

³⁷ *L. and P. Hen. VIII*, i, 108; *ibid.* iv,

2349, 2856; *ibid.* vix (2), 191; *Ct. of*

Req. bde. 12, no. 182.

A HISTORY OF NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

Elizabeth for life,¹ and James I in 1613 granted it to Charles Prince of Wales and his heirs.² After Charles's accession to the throne the manor was sold in 1628 to Edward Ditchfield, John Highlord, and others, trustees for the City of London, for a fee-farm rent of £52 17s. 8d.,³ and some question as to the validity of the letters patent arising, the sale was confirmed in the following year.⁴

The manor seems to have been sold by the trustees in various small lots, one of which, acquired by the Saunderson family, was sold in 1740, under the name of Moulton Manor, by Mary widow of John Saunderson to Timothy Rogers for £1,500.⁵ By his will dated 15 June 1765, Timothy left his property to his sister Ann Rogers, to whom various yardlands were assigned at the inclosure of the parish in 1772.⁶ The latter, by her will 12 July 1787, bequeathed the manor for life to her faithful servant Elizabeth Lyon with reversion to her cousin Osborn Standest of the Navy Office, London, who by his will in 1814 left the property to his wife Elizabeth with remainder to his children in equal portions, of whom it was purchased in 1850 by Mr. Lewis Loyd.⁷ This property descended to Lady Wantage, the grand-daughter of Mr. Lewis Loyd, but there are no manorial rights exercised at the present day.

Another portion of the estate was purchased by Richard Worley in 1630⁸ and passed to his descendants, being known as a manor when in the possession of John Worley in 1805.⁹ It was bought with the Saunderson property by Mr. Lewis Loyd in 1850.

The rent of £52 17s. 8d. was sold to William Deacon in 1650 by the trustees for the sale of fee-farm rents,¹⁰ but was afterwards granted to Queen Katharine in 1665¹¹ and the reversion sold in 1672 to Sir Richard Rainsford,¹² since which date its descent is similar to that of the fee-farm rent of Kingsthorpe (q.v.), purchased about the same time.

A second holder of land in Moulton at Domesday was Robert de Buci,¹³ whose fief passed to the Bassets of Weldon, of whom Moulton continued to be held. This constituted the *ENGAINÉ FEE*.

In the Northampton Geld Roll, dated before 1075, a William Engaine is mentioned where land at Moulton was in default,¹⁴ and in the Survey of 1086 this William was under-tenant of Robert de Buci, of whom he held 2 hides, 1½ virgates.¹⁵ His descendants continued to hold this estate, Richard Engaine being in possession in the middle of the 12th century;¹⁶ he was succeeded by his son Vital,¹⁷ who died c. 1248,¹⁸ leaving two sons, Henry who died without issue in 1271 and John.¹⁹ The Engaines subinfeudated the Fitz Johns, who already held the other manor in Moulton; for in 1296 John Fitz John died holding his manor of Moulton partly, as ½ fee, of John Engaine.²⁰ This estate thus became

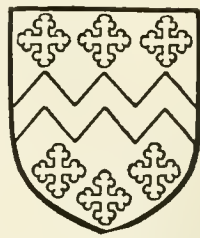
amalgamated with Moulton Manor, whose descent has been traced, the last mention of the Engaine overlordship being in 1323, when John Engaine died seised of part of a knight's fee in Moulton, held as of his manor of Blatherwyke (q.v.).²¹

Other lands in Moulton were held of the Balliol family, as of the honor of Castle Bernard; these, which in the 12th-century survey were assessed at 1½ hides and 1 small virgate, were held by Guy de Balliol as of the fee of Faxton,²² and were granted with Faxton to the Balliol family, probably by William Rufus.²³ The Balliols subinfeudated Adam de Periton,²⁴ and the estate descended with the manor of Faxton (q.v.).

In the Survey of 1086 and in that of the 12th century, 1½ hides and 1 bovat of land in Moulton are recorded as of the socage of Torp (Kingsthorpe) which was ancient demesne of the Crown,²⁵ and part of this holding may be identical with the 5 virgates bestowed by John in 1199 on the church of St. Frideswide, Oxford.²⁶ In 1227 the priory was concerned in a dispute with Adam de Periton of Faxton touching the customs which he demanded from them,²⁷ and in the reign of Henry III²⁸ and in 1291 their land in Moulton was said to be worth 12s. a year,²⁹ but there is no further mention of this estate.

The ancient inclosure known as *THORPELANDS*, which lies on the outskirts of the parish and is bounded by Weston Favell parish, may have developed from the remainder of this Kingsthorpe socage. The name Thorpe lands first occurs in 1450, when William Tresham, Speaker of the House of Commons, setting out from Rushton to meet Richard Duke of York, who was crossing from Ireland, was waylaid by some retainers of the Lancastrian, Lord Grey of Ruthin, and there killed by them.³⁰ Thorpe lands was acquired by the lords of Moulton Manor and passed with it into the possession of the Crown, by whom it was leased in 1516 and again in 1538 to Edmund Haslewood for 21 years.³¹ It was afterwards leased to John Freeman, who was in occupation in 1577,³² but it was sold with the manor in 1628 to the trustees of the City of London³³ and was shortly afterwards acquired in 1631 by Sir William Wilmer of Sywell.³⁴ The Wilmers apparently retained it for some years, but it passed through many hands in the 18th century³⁵ to William Drage of Stanwick, of whom it was bought in 1816 by Mr. Clarke Hillyard,³⁶ afterwards passing to Lord Overstone and then to Lady Wantage.

St. Andrew's Priory acquired a considerable estate in



ENGAINÉ. *Gules crusilly and a fesse dancetty or.*

¹ Pat. R. 4 Edw. VI, pt. iii; *ibid.* 5 Edw. VI, pt. iii, m. 11.

² *Ibid.* 11 Jas. I, pt. xvi.

³ *Cal. S.P. Dom.* 1628-9, pp. 428, 569; Pat. 4 Chas. I, pt. xxxiv.

⁴ *Ibid.* 4 Chas. I, pt. viii, m. 5; Feet of F. Northants. East. 5 Chas. I.

⁵ From title-deeds of Lady Wantage.

⁶ *Ibid.*; Priv. Act. 12 Geo. III, cap. 139.

⁷ P.C.C. 466, Major. From title-deeds of Lady Wantage.

⁸ Burke, *Landed Gentry* (2nd ed.), 111.

⁹ Priv. Act. 12 Geo. III, cap. 139; Feet of F. Northants. Trin. 45 Geo. III; Recov. R. Trin. 45 Geo. III, m. 254.

¹⁰ Aug. Off. Deeds of Sale of Common-

wealth, bdl. D. 1.

¹¹ Pat. 17 Chas. II, pt. ix, no. 1.

¹² Close, 24 Chas. II, pt. x, no. 7.

¹³ *V.C.H. Northants.* i, 335.

¹⁴ Round, *Feudal England*, 154-5.

¹⁵ *V.C.H. Northants.* i, 335.

¹⁶ *Ibid.* 381.

¹⁷ *Bk. of Fees*, 934, 946.

¹⁸ Chan. Inq. p.m. 33 Hen. III, no. 70.

¹⁹ Nicolas, *Peerage*, 218.

²⁰ Chan. Inq. p.m. 4 Edw. I, no. 42.

²¹ *Ibid.* 16 Edw. II, no. 71; *Cal. Close*, 1318-23, p. 640.

²² *V.C.H. Northants.* i, 381.

²³ *Ibid.* 361.

²⁴ *Bk. of Fees*, 502, 941.

²⁵ *V.C.H. Northants.* i, 306, 381.

²⁶ *Rot. Chart.* (Rec. Com.), 23.

²⁷ Close R. 13 Hen. III, m. 7 d., 9 d.

²⁸ Cott. MS. Nero D. x, fol. 185.

²⁹ *Pope Nich. Tax.* (Rec. Com.), 55.

³⁰ *Dict. Nat. Biog.*

³¹ *L. and P. Hen. VIII*, xiii (1), g. 1519 (43).

³² Aug. Off. Partic. for Leases in Reversion 1577, bdl. 12.

³³ Pat. 4 Chas. I, pt. viii, n. 5.

³⁴ Com. Pleas. Recov. R. Hil. 7 Chas. I, m. 12 d.

³⁵ Excheq. Dep. Northants. Mich. 25 Geo. III, no. 1.

³⁶ Baker, *Northants.* i, 48.

Moulton from the Grimbalds¹ and other benefactors, among whom were William son of Roger and Master William of Cogenhoe, who granted the priory $\frac{1}{2}$ virgate of land² and Alexander of Moulton who gave it 1 virgate of land which he held from his lord, Simon le Bret, at a rent of 12d.³ In 1291 the value of the estate in rents was £2 1s. 4d. and 4s. in lands.⁴ In 1443 the rents of assize came to £2 14s. 5d.,⁵ and they were afterwards farmed out to Thomas Chipsey for a term of years of which there were still four remaining in 1535.⁶ In 1538 the priory surrendered to the king,⁷ and part of the lands, in the tenure of Thomas Chipsey, was given in 1543 to Richard Andrews,⁸ after which date there is no further record of this property.

A small estate here was owned by Owston Priory, Leicestershire, founded by Robert Grimbald before 1153 and endowed by him with lands in Moulton⁹ which in the 13th century were assessed at 5s.¹⁰

Other lands in Moulton held by Fineshade Priory were granted to it by Richard Engaine the elder who founded the priory at the beginning of John's reign.¹¹ His descendants augmented his benefactions,¹² and the value of the priory's property here in 1291 was £2 2s. a year,¹³ but in 1535 was said to be £1 only.¹⁴ After the Dissolution in 1540 these lands were confirmed to Thomas Locke who held them on a £50 years' lease from the priory;¹⁵ but in 1545 they were granted to John Bellery, Edward Bales, and their heirs,¹⁶ after which date all trace of them is lost.

There is a mill mentioned in the Survey of 1086 on the estate held by William Engaine, which rendered 8d. yearly,¹⁷ and in 1248 was valued at 20s.¹⁸ By 1296 2 water-mills are found attached to Moulton Manor, which with the fishing of the ponds were worth 40s.¹⁹ These mills passed to Idonea de Leyburn, on whose death in 1334 they were in a bad state.²⁰ Probably one of them was bestowed by the Bassets or Beauchamps on St. Andrew's Priory, as in 1443 the prior demised to William Cook of Hannington for his life, at an annual rent of 2s., the site of a long mill situated in the fields between Holcot and Moulton, together with Westmylne holm.²¹ In 1551 Elizabeth, afterwards Queen of England, obtained a grant of a water-mill in Moulton for the term of her life,²² and James I in 1609 granted to Edward Ferrers and Francis Phelipps a water-mill and horse-mill with the mansion house and meadow in Northmeade adjoining the mills, at a rent of £1 15s. 4d.²³ This fee-farm rent was sold to William Deacon in 1650²⁴ and follows the descent of the fee-farm rent of the manor (q.v.). In 1706, John Saunderson was in possession of a windmill and a water grist-mill in Moulton;²⁵ and there is a mill at the present day situated in the small stream which divides this parish from Boughton.

The church of *ST. PETER AND ST. PAUL* consists of chancel, 27 ft. 6 in. by 16 ft. 3 in., with north and south chapels; clerestoried nave, 45 ft. 3 in. by

20 ft. 4 in., with north and south aisles continuous with the chancel chapels; south porch, and west tower, 12 ft. 6 in. by 12 ft. 3 in., all these *CHURCH* measurements being internal. The north aisle is 15 ft. wide and the south aisle 16 ft. 7 in., the total width across nave and aisles being 56 ft. 6 in. The chapels extend almost the whole length of the chancel, the east end of which projects beyond them about 3 ft.

The building is of rubble throughout, except the upper story of the tower, and internally all the plaster has been removed. The roofs are modern and covered with lead, that of the nave high-pitched, the others low, and all behind plain parapets.

When the church was restored in 1885-6 a portion of a carved pre-Conquest cross-shaft²⁶ was found below one of the piers of the south arcade, and is now placed in the chapel south of the chancel arch. Though this implies a burial ground and church of some kind on the site, it is probable that the first stone building was the 12th-century aisleless structure, some portion of which survives in the north wall of the nave. Two pieces of 12th-century ornament are built into the west wall of the south aisle and the south wall west of the porch, and the head²⁷ of a semicircular window remains above the second arch from the east of the nave arcade.

About c. 1180-90, a very plain arcade of four rounded arches of two unmodelled orders was cut through the north wall of the nave and an aisle added on that side. The arches are without hood-moulds and spring from piers consisting of four half-rounds against a square centre, with divided plain bell capitals and square abaci, on chamfered bases of cross plan, and from responds of the same character.

The south arcade is probably part of a very extensive rebuilding of the church which took place soon after 1298, in which year the Bishop of Lincoln ordered the inhabitants to rebuild 'the church, tower, and churchyard' which are described as being 'miserably in ruins'. A tower, therefore, must have been added before this time and enough evidence still remains to suggest that the church had been considerably enlarged during the 13th century. The existing fabric, however, is in the main the reconstructed church of c. 1300, with subsequent alterations. The rebuilding no doubt included the erection of the south aisle, which appears to be contemporary with the arcade, followed by the widening of the north aisle and chapel, beginning at the west end (with a slight break near the north doorway), the building of the tower, and the reconstruction of the chancel and south chapel in their present form. The clerestory and porch appear to be additions later in the century, while early in the 15th-century the tower was heightened by the addition of an upper stage in dressed stone, with short lead-covered wooden spire, and new windows were inserted, or old ones altered, in the aisles and chancel. The spire was pulled down in the time of the

¹ Cott. MS. Vesp. E. xvii, fols. 1 d., 43 d., 46 d., 47, 47 d., 49.

² Ibid. fols. 44, 45.

³ Ibid. fols. 45 d., 46; Feet of F. Northants. 3 Hen. III, no. 61.

⁴ Pope Nich. Tax. (Rec. Com.), 35.

⁵ Mins. Accts. bdle. 1108, no. 21.

⁶ Valor Eccles. (Rec. Com.), iv, 313.

⁷ Feet of F. Div. Co. Hil. 29 Hen. VIII; L. and P. Hen. VIII, xiii (1), 404.

⁸ Ibid. xx, 221; Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), lxiii, 65.

⁹ Dugdale, Mon. vi, 922, seq.

¹⁰ Cott. MS. Nero D. x, fol. 184; Pope Nich. Tax. (Rec. Com.), 55.

¹¹ F.C.H. Northants. ii, 135.

¹² Ibid.

¹³ Pope Nich. Tax. (Rec. Com.), 55.

¹⁴ Valor Eccles. (Rec. Com.), iv, 296.

¹⁵ L. and P. Hen. VIII, xv, p. 564.

¹⁶ Pat. 36 Hen. VIII, pt. xiv, m. 34.

¹⁷ F.C.H. Northants. i, 335.

¹⁸ Chan. Inq. p.m. 33 Hen. III, no. 70.

¹⁹ Ibid. 25 Edw. I, no. 50 (a).

²⁰ Ibid. 8 Edw. III (1st nos.), no. 66.

²¹ Harl. Chart. 44 H. 35.

²² Pat. 5 Edw. VI, pt. iii, m. 11.

²³ Ibid. 7 Jas. I, pt. xiv, m. 13.

²⁴ Aug. Off. Deeds of sale of Commonwealth, bdle. D i, 116.

²⁵ Recov. R. Mich. 5 Anne, m. 200.

²⁶ F.C.H. Northants. ii, 193; Assoc. Arch. Soc. Reports, xix, 414 (fig. 411). It is of oolite, 26 in. long, tapering from 18 in. by 9 in. to 16 in. by 8 in. On the front are two panels, the upper containing a beast with paw upraised biting its tail, the lower with knot-work: the sides have knot-work only.

²⁷ Consisting of fifteen voussoirs.

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Civil War.¹ A west gallery, erected in 1738, was removed during the restoration of 1885.²

The chancel has a four-centred 15th-century east window of four lights with vertical tracery, and in the south wall a trefoil-headed piscina recess with mutilated bowl, west of which is a blocked 15th-century doorway and over it the remains of a window opening.³ Beyond this the chancel is open to the south chapel by an arcade of two arches of two chamfered orders, without hood-moulds, springing from an octagonal pier with moulded capital and base and from end corbels. On the north side there is a 13-ft. length of blank wall at the east end,⁴ beyond which the chancel is open to the chapel by a single wide arch of two chamfered orders with hood-mould, the inner order springing from mutilated corbels. The arches on both sides are of the 14th century, and were originally filled with screens, the marks of which remain. The early-14th-century chancel arch is also of two chamfered orders, without hood-mould, the inner order on half-octagonal responds with moulded capitals, and bases standing on high plinths.⁵ Lintel doorways to the rood-loft remain north and south of the arch high up at the east end of the nave walls, but there are no stairs. The roof of the chancel, and all its fittings, are modern. There is no chancel-screen.

The north chapel has a 14th-century east window of three trefoiled lights with reticulated tracery and chamfered rear-arch, and on the north side a three-light window with quatrefoil tracery. In the usual position in the south wall is an early-13th-century trefoiled piscina with fluted projecting bowl, and the slots for a wooden shelf above. The south chapel has an east window of four lights, *c.* 1300, with intersecting tracery and chamfered rear-arch, but the two contemporary four-light windows in the south wall were re-topped in the 15th century with cusped lights and very depressed arches.⁶ There is a trefoil-headed piscina *c.* 1300 with fluted bowl, and also in the south wall a later pointed doorway, to give headway for which the eastern light of the adjoining window was shortened.

The late-12th-century north arcade has been described, but at some later period the two western piers were encased, built up solid, for some 3 or 4 ft., the westernmost in circular and the other in hexagonal form. The south arcade is also of four bays, with pointed arches of two chamfered orders without hood-mould, on octagonal piers and responds with moulded capitals and bases. There are five square-headed clerestory windows of two trefoiled lights on each side placed very high in the walls: the line of the early-14th-century high-pitched roof remains over the tower arch.

The west window of the north aisle and one in the north wall west of the doorway are of two lights with forked mullion *c.* 1300, and those in the corresponding

positions on the south side appear to have been contemporary, but the mullion is cut away in the west window and the other is modern. Near the east end of the north aisle is a three-light window with tracery similar to that in the north chapel, and the south aisle has a four-light window east of the porch like those in the south chapel. The 14th-century north doorway is of two continuous orders, the inner wave-moulded and the outer with a hollow chamfer. The south doorway is in part of late-12th-century date with a later pointed arch of two orders, apparently of the 13th century, the outer chamfered, the inner covered by the wooden frame of an inserted panelled door.⁷ The 12th-century jambs were originally shafted, but the shafts are gone, though the capitals and imposts remain. The 14th-century outer doorway of the porch is of two chamfered orders, the inner springing from moulded corbels: there is a good but much-weathered line of carving on the low-pitched gable of the porch.

The tower is of four stages, the three lower constituting the 14th-century structure, with diagonal buttresses to the top of the second stage, and a vice in the south-west angle corbelled out internally. The west doorway is of two moulded orders, with hood-mould and finial, and an inner order moulded only half-way, the jambs of which differ. Above it in the second stage is a window of two trefoiled lights with quatrefoil in the head, but on the north and south the two lower stages are blank. The original bell-chamber windows are of the same character, but those of the superimposed 15th-century upper stage are tall double transomed openings of two trefoiled lights. The tower finishes with a battlemented parapet and mutilated angle pinnacles.⁸ The arch opening to the nave is of four chamfered orders on the east side, three of which die out, and the innermost springs from half-octagonal responds with moulded capitals and bases. The vice doorway has a lintel on rounded corbels. Below the arch is a portion of the early-18th-century turned oak altar railing.

The font in use was given in 1886,⁹ and the pulpit also is modern.

In the north aisle is a broken 13th-century coffin lid with cross and 'omega' ornament:¹⁰ an armorial slab to John Sanderson (d. 1689) is now against the north wall.¹¹ There are no other monuments older than the middle of the 18th century. In the vestry is a parish chest apparently of 17th-century date.

There is a ring of six bells cast by Edward Arnold or Leicester in 1795, and rehung by Taylor of Loughborough in 1884.¹² A clock and chimes were erected in 1903. In 1552 there were four bells and a sanctus bell and 'one other great bell hanging in one frame by itself'.

The plate consists of a silver cup of 1607, a paten *c.* 1685 with maker's mark W.R., and a silver bread-holder of 1735 given by Mrs. Sarah Page.¹³

¹ Bridges, *Hist. of Northants.* i, 419.

² The restoration, under the direction of Mr. E. J. Law, was completed in August 1886.

³ Possibly the rear arch of a 13th-century window. Three voussoirs and two jamb stones remain.

⁴ On the south side there is about 8 ft. of wall east of the arcade.

⁵ The plinths follow the plan of the responds and are 4 ft. high: the continuous outer order of the arch stops at this height.

⁶ The mullions, with one exception, are old.

⁷ The frame is in front of the door,

which is probably of 17th-century date, though the hinges are older: the back is battened.

⁸ The tops of the pinnacles were probably removed when the pyramidal roof was taken down.

⁹ An 18th-century marble font is in the vestry. The ancient font was done away with when the church was newly pewed, and some rich parclose, together with the open seats, shared the same fate: *Chs. Archd. N'ton*, 250.

¹⁰ The 'omega' ornament is figured in *Arch. Journ.* xxxv, 259.

¹¹ Placed there in 1885. The date is now

obliterated, but the full inscription is given in Bridges, *op. cit.* i, 420.

¹² North, *Ch. Bells of Northants.* 338, where the inscriptions are given. They took the place of a ring of five, the tenor of which was inscribed 'Sancte Confessor Cristi benedicte ora pro nobis Deum' and is said to have been of 13th-century date: the third and fourth were dated 1664. The history of the bells is set out in *Moulton Church and its Bells*, by Sidney Madge, 1895: certain traditions are discussed, 45-7.

¹³ Markham, *Ch. Plate of Northants.* 193. The paten is probably by William Romsey, of Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

The registers before 1812 are as follows: (i) baptisms 1565-1635,¹ 1689-1740, marriages 1566-1652, 1689-1739, burials 1565-1632, 1689-1740; (ii) baptisms and burials 1740-99, marriages 1740-54; (iii) marriages 1755-1812; (iv) baptisms 1800-12; (v) burials 1800-12. The baptisms from 1565 to 1812 have been printed.² The first volume contains a list of briefs 1692-1730, and of unbaptized persons *c.* 1700. The churchwardens' accounts begin in 1778.

The Grimbald family were great *ADVOWSON* benefactors to St. Andrew's Priory and the founder of the family, Grimbald, who witnessed the foundation charter of the priory between 1093-1100, bestowed upon it the church of Moulton with 7 virgates of land and freedom from suit of court:³ gifts which were confirmed by his descendants and by William Mandeville Earl of Essex.⁴ Between 1209 and 1235 a vicarage was ordained which consisted in all things belonging to the church except the tithes, which were appropriated by the priory;⁵ but subsequently assignment was made to the vicar of one half of the tithes.⁶ The priory continued to hold the advowson and had a pension in the vicarage of 13s. 4d. which was paid till the Dissolution,⁷ but during the French war of the reign of Edward III, the king is often found presenting to Moulton church, as the priory, being an alien one, was then taken into his hand.⁸ In 1535 the vicarage was worth £15,⁹ and after the dissolution of the priory was granted in 1552 to John Whiting and Thomas Freeman,¹⁰ who at once conveyed it to Edward Watson.¹¹ The latter and his wife Dorothy sold it in 1554 to John Lane of Walgrave,¹² on whose death three years later,¹³ it passed to his son William, who died while still a minor in 1560,¹⁴ when he was succeeded by his brother John, of whom the advowson was purchased by John Freeman of Great Billing in 1576.¹⁵ John Freeman continued in possession until 1615, when on his death it passed with Great Billing Manor (q.v.) to his grandchild and heir Katharine the wife of Sir Edward Gorges, afterwards Baron Dundalk.¹⁶ By her first husband Edward Haslewood of Maidwell, Katharine had a son, Sir Anthony Haslewood,¹⁷ to whom she and Sir Edward Gorges conveyed the advowson in 1628,¹⁸ and it remained vested in the Haslewoods,¹⁹ passing on the death of Anthony's son William in 1681 to the latter's two daughters and co-heirs, Elizabeth and Penelope, who afterwards married Christopher Lord Hatton of Kirby and Henry Portman respectively.²⁰ Penelope gave up her right in the advowson to her sister and Lord Hatton,²¹ to whose sons William and Henry, who both died without issue

before 1762, it passed in due course, afterwards descending according to the terms of a settlement to Edward Finch the fifth son of Anne, wife of Daniel Finch, Earl of Winchelsea, and daughter of Christopher Lord Hatton by his first wife Cecily.²² Edward Finch assumed the additional name of Hatton in 1764 and on his death in 1771 left the right of presentation to his son George,²³ by whom it was probably sold some time between 1818 and 1823, the date of his death.²⁴ During the rest of the 19th century it passed through many hands, and is at present vested in the Church Association Trust.

In 1301 an indulgence was granted for the chapel of the Blessed Mary in the church,²⁵ and in 1495 Thomas Stanner, glazier, bequeathed his possessions and 40s. for the use of Moulton parish church, the parishioners to pray for the souls of himself, his father, mother, and friends.²⁶ Moulton rectory was appropriated to St. Andrew's Priory before the Dissolution, and descended with the advowson until the first quarter of the 19th century. It was assessed at £8 in the reign of Henry III²⁷ and in 1291,²⁸ but by 1535 had risen to twice that value and had been leased to Edward Watson for a term of years, of which four then remained.²⁹ It passed with the advowson to the Haslewoods; and in 1649, when Sir Anthony Haslewood compounded for delinquency, the impropriate rectory of Moulton, worth £115 a year, was accepted in part payment of the fine, and £55 a year was to be settled on Moulton church, £35 in augmentation of the minister's salary.³⁰ The Lane family laid claim to the rectory as well as to the advowson,³¹ and the dispute was not settled until 1662, when Montague the son of Robert Lane gave up all his claims to William Haslewood.³² In 1772, when the parish was inclosed, the great tithes were commuted for 396 acres 17 poles of land,³³ and the estate was sold in 1818 by Colonel George Finch Hatton, the impropriator, to William Abbot, who was sheriff for Northamptonshire in 1824 and resided in the house built on this road known as Moulton Grange.³⁴ Between this date and 1835, this rectorial estate was sold to John Nethercote,³⁵ whose ancestors Edward and his wife Susanna held land in Moulton in 1611.³⁶

The Engaines of Blatherwycke apparently settled two-thirds of the great tithes of certain lands in Moulton on the rector of Blatherwycke. These two-thirds were represented in 1291 by a pension of 13s. 4d. in Moulton rectory,³⁷ paid in 1600 from land called the 'Wenge' containing 9½ yardlands.³⁸ At the inclosure of the parish in 1772, some 32 acres were allotted to the rector of Blatherwycke in lieu of two-thirds of the great tithes

¹ With gaps 1567-73, 1628-33.

² *Par. Reg. Soc.* xlvii (1903), with Calendar of Moulton Parish documents, ed. by Sidney J. Madge.

³ Cott. MS. Vesp. E. xvii, fols. 1 d., 43 d.

⁴ *Ibid.* fols. 49, 47 d.

⁵ A. Gibbons, *Liber Antiquus*, Hugh of Wells, p. 39.

⁶ Cott. MS. Vesp. E. xvii, fol. 49.

⁷ *Ibid.* Nero D. x, fol. 187; *Pope Nich. Tax.* (Rec. Com.), 40; *Valor Eccles.* (Rec. Com.), iv. 314.

⁸ *Cal. Pat.* 1334-8, p. 516; *ibid.* 1343-5, p. 433; *ibid.* 1348-50, p. 102.

⁹ *Valor Eccles.* (Rec. Com.), iv. 324.

¹⁰ *Pat.* 6 Edw. VI, pt. iii, m. 19.

¹¹ Com. Pleas. D. Enr. Hil. 6 and 7 dw. VI. m. 7 d.

¹² Feet of F. Northants. Trin. 1 & 2 Ph. and M.

¹³ Excheq. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), dcxc, 12.

¹⁴ *Ibid.* (Ser. 2), cxxvii. 27.

¹⁵ Feet of F. Northants. Hil. 18 Eliz. Chan. Proc. Eliz. F. f. 7, no. 32; Feet of F. Northants. Easter 24 Eliz.; Chan. Proc. Eliz. L. l. 10, no. 80.

¹⁶ Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), ccclxix, 157.

¹⁷ *Harl. Soc. Publ.* viii, 226.

¹⁸ Feet of F. Northants. East. 3 Chas. I.

¹⁹ Inst. Bks. (P.R.O.); *Recov. R. East.*

²⁰ Chas. II, m. 56.

²¹ *Harl. Soc. Publ.* viii, 226; Feet of F. Div. Co. Trin. 1 Will. and M.; Inst. Bks. (P.R.O.).

²² Feet of F. Northants. Hil. 2 Will. and M.; *Recov. R. Hil. 2 Will. and M. m.*

²³ Inst. Bks. (P.R.O.); *Recov. R. Hil. 3*

Geo. III, m. 345; G.E.C. Peerage, viii, 181-2.

²⁴ *Ibid.*; *Recov. R. Trin. 52 Geo. III, m.*

²⁵ 193.

²⁶ Baker, *Northants.* i, 49.

²⁷ Linc. Epis. Reg. Memo. Dalderby, fol.

²⁸ 40.

²⁹ Add. Chart. 24710.

³⁰ Cott. MS. Nero D. x, fol. 187.

³¹ *Pope Nich. Tax.* (Rec. Com.), 40.

³² *Valor Eccles.* (Rec. Com.), iv. 314.

³³ *Cal. of Com. for Compounding*, 1862.

³⁴ *Ibid.* 1808.

³⁵ Feet of F. Northants. Mich. 14 Chas.

³⁶ II.

³⁷ Priv. Act. 12 Geo. III, cap. 139.

³⁸ Baker, *Northants.* i, 49.

³⁹ Burke, *Commoners*, ii. 93.

⁴⁰ Feet of F. Northants. Mich. 9 Jas. I.

⁴¹ *Pope Nich. Tax.* (Rec. Com.), 40.

⁴² Excheq. Dep. 32 Chas. II, Trin. no. 2.

A HISTORY OF NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

arising from Wenglands or Blatherwycke lands, and from Keybery and Fletlands,¹ and this small estate is still enjoyed by the rectors of Blatherwycke.

Robert Mills in or about 1611 gave *CHARITIES* out of land belonging to him 20s. a year to be distributed on St. Stephen's Day in bread to twenty Church widows and 6s. 8d. for a sermon on that day. This charge was redeemed and the endowment now produces £1 2s. in dividends. The charity is administered by the churchwardens.

Martha Spraggott by her will proved in Prerogative Court of Canterbury 4 May 1848 gave a sum of money to the vicar and churchwardens for the poor. The endowment produces £1 7s. yearly in dividends, which are distributed with the Mills charity.

William Barber by his will proved in Northampton

22 April 1882 gave £50 to the vicar and vicar's warden and the owner of Moulton Grange for the benefit of the aged poor. This sum now produces about £1 5s. yearly in dividends.

John Francis by his will proved 26 April 1907 gave £100 to the churchwardens for the benefit of the poor. The money was invested, producing £3 7s. 6d. yearly in dividends.

The income of these four charities is, after the payment of 6s. 8d. to the vicar for a sermon, distributed in doles to about twenty poor widows.

The vicar of Moulton receives annually £30 from the trustees of Sir Edward Nicholls's Charity, which is described under the parish of Kettering.

The several sums of stock are with the Official Trustees of Charitable Funds.

MOULTON PARK

Moulton Park, which was formerly extra-parochial, was constituted a parish between 1851 and 1861, although for ecclesiastical purposes it is annexed to Moulton. It covers an area of nearly 853 acres, and consists almost entirely of the estate owned by the Governors of St. Andrew's Mental Hospital, Northampton, who have a branch establishment here. The land lies fairly high, Moulton Park House standing at 418 ft., while in no part of the parish is there a level lower than 344 ft. On the north west the property is inclosed by a stone wall, but few traces of the ancient park remain. Leland, writing before the middle of the 16th century, says: 'From Northampton to Kingesthorpe a mile and a little farther by Multon Parke, enclosed with stone, where is neatly plentie of wood; it longgid a late to the Lord Vaux, now to the Kinge. In it is no building but a mene Lodge.'² By 1560 there were few or no oaks left in the park and the wood was mostly thorn,³ and at the present day the old trees have disappeared and the plantations scattered over the estate are of modern growth.

In 1086 there were two small estates in Moulton, half a hide and one virgate respectively, held of the Countess Judith by Biscop and Hugh.⁴ These small holdings probably escheated to the overlord, and were turned by him into a park, attached to the Castle of Northampton, and therefore at first known as Northampton or Moulton Park.⁵ The sheriff was ordered in 1223 to cause the park to be inclosed by those who ought to contribute to such an undertaking,⁶ and in 1229 he was told to turn out all the beasts except those belonging to the king, keeping enough pasture to fatten the oxen and beasts for the royal household in winter.⁷ In 1235 an order was given to stock the park with 20 bucks and 68 does,⁸ and in 1251 the sheriff was directed to inclose or fence Moulton Park and to certify the cost.⁹ During the same year Robert Basset, then sheriff, was appointed keeper in

the place of Robert de Mares,¹⁰ the office in 1261 being conferred on Alan la Zouche.¹¹ The expenses of repairing the walls were partly defrayed by several townships in the county, and in 1276 the men of Roger de Furneus in Raunds, of Henry le Scot and Ralph de Normanvill in Cotes, of Oliver Bydun and Simon de Cotes in Little Cotes and of Richard Trayley and Robert Puntenev in Ringstead were arraigned before the Hundred Court for neglecting for the last 16 years to repair their share,¹² but at the same court the former sheriff, Roger de Seyton was reprimanded for levying 22s. from the vill of Chalcombe which was not contributory,¹³ and the exemption of the men of that vill from this toll was especially recorded in 1285 in the inquisition taken after the death of Nicholas de Segrave.¹⁴ The Butlers of Grimsbury, however, held their land there of the king by the service of repairing part of the wall whenever it was necessary, and the portion for which they were responsible was said in 1362 to be 16 feet.¹⁵ Sir Nicholas Lilling was appointed keeper in 1390¹⁶ and during his term of office, in 1393, the walls were thoroughly overhauled and extensive repairs made. Two carts were employed for carrying stones to the faulty places, and at 10d. a day cost 30s. for 36 days, and 4 masons with 3 assistants were employed for 45 days.¹⁷ The office of keeper was conferred by the sovereign upon his retainers as a reward of faithful services,¹⁸ and in 1439 was obtained by Robert Roos,¹⁹ and by Sir William Hastings and Ralph Hastings in 1462.²⁰ During the reign of Henry VIII, while Sir William Parr was keeper of the park, disputes arose with the inhabitants of the neighbouring parishes of Kingesthorpe, Boughton, and Moulton as to the limits of the warren of the park.²¹ In 1560 the state of the park appears to have been lamentable. The two lodges were in such decay that one could not be repaired under £20 and the other under £10, while the

¹ Priv. Act. 12 Geo. III, cap. 139.

² Leland, *Itinerary*, ed. 2, i, 12.

³ Memo. R. L.T.R. East. 2 Eliz. m. 47.

⁴ *V.C.H. Northants.* i, 352, 353.

⁵ Simon 'Parcarius' or 'de Parco' occurs between 1203 and 1214 as holding land in Moulton, but there is nothing to suggest that he held in right of his office: *Abbrev. Plac.* (Rec. Com.), 41; *Curia Regis* R. vii, 132, 187, 264.

⁶ Close 7 Hen. III: cited by Baker, *Northants.* i, 52. Cf. *Cal. Close*, 1227-31, p. 19.

⁷ *Cal. Close*, 1227-31, p. 240.

⁸ *Ibid.* 1234-7, p. 136.

⁹ *Ibid.* 1247-51, p. 437.

¹⁰ *Ibid.* p. 414.

¹¹ *Abbrev. Rot. Orig.* (Rec. Com.), i, 17.

¹² *Hund. R.* (Rec. Com.), ii, 10; cf.

Assize R. 3 Edw. III, m. 9.

¹³ *Hund. R.* (Rec. Com.), ii, 6.

¹⁴ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 13 Edw. I, no. 47.

¹⁵ *Ibid.* 33 Edw. III (1st nos.), no. 7;

ibid. 36 Edw. III, pt. i, no. 26; *ibid.* 10

Rich. II, no. 99.

¹⁶ *Cal. Pat.* 1388-92, p. 325; *ibid.* 1399-

1401, p. 2, 343; *Fine R.* 1 Hen. V, pt. ii, m. 24.

¹⁷ *Add. Chart.* 6047.

¹⁸ *Cal. Pat.* 1327-30, p. 163; *ibid.*

1330-4, p. 47; *Pat.* 44, Edw. III, pt. i, m.

19; *Cal. Pat.* 1377-81, p. 135; *ibid.*

1385-9, p. 346.

¹⁹ *Ibid.* 1436-41, p. 257; *Fine R.* 27

Hen. VI.

²⁰ *Cal. Pat.* 1461-7, p. 13.

²¹ *L. and P. Hen. VIII*, iii, 2482, 3146; *ibid.* xvi, 1053.

park was inclosed with a wall so low 'that neither deer nor other beasts can be kept there', and in many parts the wall 'lyeth wyde open, the dere thereof daylye and nightlye go oute and fede of the corne and grasse growinge in the feildes nexte abowte adioyninge'. The wall would cost £66 13s. 4d. to repair while 30 oaks would not be sufficient to mend the rails and gates. At that time there were in the park 100 deer of all sorts, whereof 20 were antlered.¹ In 1574 it was stated that there was a 'frebourd' round about the park, 7 ft. from the walls and that the keepers were accustomed to cut down the bushes growing upon it in order to stop up the gaps in the walls and keep in the deer.² In 1576 Sir Christopher Hatton, afterwards Lord Chancellor, obtained a grant in fee of the custody of the park with the herbage and pannage³ and at his death in 1591 it passed, according to a settlement, to his cousin Sir Christopher Hatton⁴ who died in 1619 and was succeeded by his son, another Christopher,⁵ afterwards Lord Hatton of Kirby, who in 1634 obtained a grant

of the Park, to him and his heirs, to hold in chief of the king for one knight's fee at a fee-farm rent of £5.⁶ During his lifetime, or that of his son Christopher,⁷ the park was sold and passed into the possession of Sir Andrew Hackett of Moxhull, Warwickshire, who held it in 1690,⁸ and at his death in 1705 it was inherited by his son, Lisle Hackett,⁹ by whom it was sold in 1720 to William Thursby of Abington.¹⁰ The Thursbys sold it some time after 1767 to Thomas Powys, afterwards Lord Lilford, of whom it was purchased about 1785 by Colonel Thomas Keating, who raised a regiment in Northamptonshire during the American War.¹¹ It apparently changed hands many times during the 19th century, and in 1871 was bought by Messrs. P. & R. Phipps, the brewers at Northampton, who pulled down the old house and built a plain brick house and farm premises near its site.¹² It was afterwards acquired by Sir John Blencowe Robinson, bart., of Kingsthorpe, who died there in 1877,¹³ and has since become the property of the Governors of St. Andrew's Hospital.

OVERSTONE

Oveston (xii-xvii cents.).

The parish of Overstone comprises an area of 1,764 acres of which 30 are water and nearly 200 are covered by woods and plantations. The soil is chiefly red loam, producing fine turnips and crops of wheat and pulse, while the subsoil consists of ironstone with some clay.

Overstone Park, formerly the property of Lady Wantage and afterwards the Philip Stott College for political students in economics, is now a public school for girls under the auspices of the Parents' National Educational Union.

The park covers nearly half the area of the parish and extends into the neighbouring parishes of Sywell and Ecton. A high wall, 6 miles in circumference incloses the park, containing well-grown plantations and groups of handsome trees. The house, built about 1861, stands in the centre and is connected with the Wellingtonborough and Kettering highways by a road passing through the park from north to south. It overlooks an ornamental sheet of water of about 23 acres which has been made by draining the surrounding land, and has a fine view over the undulating country. At the north-west entrance to the park the 16th-century gateway from Pytchley Manor House (pulled down in 1824) was erected in 1843. It is of grey stone, with a wide middle archway, pilasters and entablature, and narrower side-openings, the upper part being of a somewhat nondescript character with tall pyramidal obelisk finials.

The village is small with well-built houses, and lies along the north wall of the park; the church standing just within the gates, but the Rectory and Rectory Farm with Overstone Grange and one or two other



OVERSTONE PARK

houses are about a mile north of the village, a little west of the Kettering road. The population in 1931 was 235.

The road skirting the park wall on the west rises from 267 ft. to 388 ft., and then falls again, the house standing on a terrace about 350 ft. which slopes to the lake below, lying at 284 ft.

Overstone is not mentioned in Domesday, *MANOR* but was probably included in Sywell, and was held with it by the Count of Mortain at that date.¹⁴ Sywell was granted to Niel Mundeville, lord of Folkestone, when the Count of Mortain's possessions

¹ Memo. R. L.T.R. East. 2 Eliz. m. 42.

² Excheq. Dep. Mich. 16 and 17, Eliz. no. 10.

³ Pat. 19 Eliz. pt. 8, m. 29.

⁴ Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), ccxxxii, 82.

⁵ Ibid. (Ser. 2), ccclxxvi, 100.

⁶ Pat. 10 Chas. I, pt. viii, no. 8.

⁷ Feet of F. Northants. Trin. 1649; *Cal. of Com. for Compounding*, 1580-1; Feet of F. Northants. Hil. 1656.

⁸ Ibid. Mich. 2 Will. and M.

⁹ Bk. of Deeds belonging to Ishams of Lamport, p. 205.

¹⁰ Feet of F. Northants. Trin. 6 Geo. I;

Bridges, *Northants.* i, 420; *Recov. R.* Trin. 10 Geo. II, m. 128.

¹¹ Baker, *Northants.* i, 53.

¹² Whellan, *Northants.* 1874.

¹³ G.E.C. *Baronetage*, iii, 54.

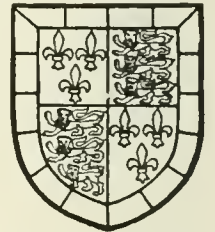
¹⁴ *V.C.H. Northants.* i, 321, 381.

A HISTORY OF NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

were confiscated by Henry I. Maud the daughter and heir of Niel Mundeville married Ruallon d'Avranches (de Abrincis), and the overlordship of *OVERSTONE* remained vested in the d'Avranches until, on the death of William without issue in 1235, it passed to his sister Maud, the wife of Hamon de Crevecoeur, who held it in her right;¹ but by 1275 it had escheated to the Crown as lands of Normans.²

The mesne lordship was obtained by Humphrey de Millers who married Felice the sister of a William d'Avranches, and probably the daughter of Ruallon and Maud Mundeville.³ Humphrey, who was holding the manor in 1166,⁴ had two sons, by the elder of whom, William, he was succeeded, the second son Ralph being rector of Overstone.⁵ William died before 1223,⁶ leaving two sons, the elder of whom, William, presented his brother Humphrey to the church in that year, and a daughter Felice, the heir of her brothers, who both died before 1241.⁷ She was succeeded before 1247 by her son Gilbert de Wyarvill, sometimes called de Millers,⁸ but his lands were forfeited to the Crown in 1271 as being those of a Norman.⁹ Overstone was retained in the hand of the king for some years¹⁰ and in 1281 the manor was bestowed on Christiane de Mareys to hold for life. In 1285 and again in 1290 one of her tenants Walter le Mazun complained that she had unjustly ejected him from 1 virgate of land which had been leased to him while Richard de Holebrook was bailiff¹¹ for 16s. and on which he had expended much money in buildings and improvements.¹² Christiane died c. 1312 when her executors, who were to hold the manor for 7½ years after her death,¹³ leased it for that term to Robert de Appleby, clerk, at a rent of £50. Their lessee offended the king, who confiscated Overstone,¹⁴ and appointed Martin de Ispanum steward in 1316,¹⁵ but compensated the executors.¹⁶ Overstone was granted in 1318 to Donald de Mar¹⁷ who, however, joined the Scots against the king in 1327, and was declared a rebel,¹⁸ Overstone being forfeited and granted to John Mautravers for life.¹⁹ Richard de Grey of Codnor then petitioned the king for the manor and in 1329 he brought an action against John Mautravers on the ground that Gilbert de Millers, before he forfeited Overstone in 1271, had demised it to Richard de Grey, his great-grandfather.²⁰ Richard's claim was recognized to a certain extent, for in 1331 he received a grant of Overstone for 7 years at a rent of £35 12s. 11¼d.,²¹ but on his death in 1335 it was confiscated by the king, probably because there were two years' arrears of rent.²² Thomas Wake of Deeping was granted the manor in 1335 to hold for one year at an increased rent of £40,²³ but it is doubtful if the grant ever took effect, as during the same year it was bestowed upon Sir Walter Manny in part satisfaction of £100

per annum granted to him by the king, Overstone being worth 100 marks a year.²⁴ Sir Walter Manny was a native of Hainault, but attached himself to the service of Edward III and took part in most of the French campaigns, being present at Sluys in 1340 and at Crecy in 1346, and was knighted in 1331, and in 1346 summoned to Parliament as a baron.²⁵ During his tenure of Overstone, John, the son of Richard de Grey who had died in 1335, renewed the claim of the de Grey family to the Overstone estates,²⁶ without success; and in 1365 one Edmund de Morteyn claimed that his great-grandmother Constance was seised of the manor in the reign of Edward I,²⁷ but his pretensions were without foundation and Sir Walter Manny died seised of the manor in 1372,²⁸ and was buried in the Charterhouse, of which he was founder. His son having been drowned, the title and some of the property became the right of his daughter Anne, wife of John Hastings, 2nd Earl of Pembroke, and on her death in 1384 descended to her son John Hastings, the third earl, who died without issue in 1389.²⁹ Overstone, however, had been settled on Margaret, *suo jure* Countess of Norfolk, the wife of Sir Walter, who outlived her daughter and grandson and died in 1398.³⁰ In 1391, after the death of her heirs, she alienated the manor to John Duke of Lancaster³¹ who settled it on John of Beaufort, his eldest son by Catherine Swinford.³² John of Beaufort, who was created Earl of Somerset, died in 1410, and his son Henry³³ on his death in 1418 was succeeded by his brother John, a third part of the manor being held of their mother, Margaret Duchess of Clarence,³⁴ who accounted for half a fee in Overstone in 1428.³⁵ John was made Duke of Somerset and died in 1444, leaving a daughter Margaret,³⁶ who married Edmund Tudor, Earl of Richmond, by whom she was the mother of Henry VII. When she died in 1509 Overstone became the property of her grandson Henry VIII³⁷ by whom it was granted in 1537 to Sir William Fitzwilliam, Lord High Admiral of England, and his heirs male.³⁸ The manor escheated to the crown on the death of Sir William without issue in 1542,³⁹ and was bestowed by Edward VI in 1550 upon Thomas Smythe, one of the secretaries of state, and Elizabeth his wife, and the heirs of Thomas.⁴⁰ In 1577 Sir Thomas Smythe settled the manor on his brother George, after his own decease and for the lifetime of his wife Philippa, at whose death it was to pass to John Wood, his nephew. Sir Thomas died the same year, and his



BEAUFORT. France and England quartered in a border gobony argent and azure.

¹ G.E.C. *Peerage*, i, 36; *Bk. of Fees*, 935, 946.

² Mins. Accts. bdle. 1089, no. 6.

³ Baker, *Northants*, i, 53.

⁴ Hearn, *Liber Niger*, i, 57.

⁵ Baker, *Northants*, i, 53.

⁶ Harl. MS. 6950.

⁷ *Ibid.*; *Excerpta e Rot. Fin.* i, 363.

⁸ *Ibid.* ii, 13.

⁹ Baker, *Northants*, i, 54.

¹⁰ *Hund. R.* (Rec. Com.), ii, 13.

¹¹ He had been appointed in 1281: *Abbrev. Rot. Orig.* (Rec. Com.), i, 40.

¹² *Cal. Close*, 1279-88, p. 365; *Cal. Pat.* 1281-92, p. 406.

¹³ *Ibid.* 1307-13, p. 508.

¹⁴ *Parl. R.* i, 341; *Chan. Inq. Misc.* file lxxviii, no. 5.

¹⁵ *Feud. Aids*, iv, 23; *Abbrev. Rot. Orig.* (Rec. Com.), i, 224.

¹⁶ *Cal. Pat.* 1313-17, p. 564; *Cal. Close*, 1327-30, p. 43.

¹⁷ *Cal. Pat.* 1317-21, p. 80.

¹⁸ *Dict. Nat. Biog.*

¹⁹ *Cal. Pat.* 1327-30, p. 101.

²⁰ *Coram Rege R.* 186 (2), m. 105.

²¹ *Abbrev. Rot. Orig.* (Rec. Com.), ii, 56.

²² *Cal. Close*, 1333-7, p. 360.

²³ *Abbrev. Rot. Orig.* (Rec. Com.), ii, 95.

²⁴ *Cal. Pat.* 1334-8, p. 176.

²⁵ *Dict. Nat. Biog.*

²⁶ De Banco R. 354, m. 362 d.

²⁷ *Ibid.* 421, m. 152.

²⁸ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 46 Edw. III (1st nos.), no. 38.

²⁹ G.E.C. *Peerage* (2nd ed.), vi, 351.

³⁰ *Ibid.*

³¹ *Cal. Pat.* 1388-92, p. 461.

³² *Fine R.* 15 Rich. II, m. 3; *Cal. Pat.* 1391-6, p. 15.

³³ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 11 Hen. IV, no. 44.

³⁴ *Ibid.* 3 Hen. VI, no. 18.

³⁵ *Feud. Aids*, iv, 37.

³⁶ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 22 Hen. VI, no. 19.

³⁷ *Ibid.* (Ser. 2), xxv, 63.

³⁸ *Pat.* 29 Hen. VIII, pt. i, m. 21.

³⁹ *Dict. Nat. Biog.*

⁴⁰ *Pat.* 4 Edw. VI, pt. viii, m. 9.



OVERSTONE PARK: GATEWAY, REMOVED FROM PYTCHLEY HALL



OVERSTONE CHURCH, FROM THE SOUTH-WEST

widow dying the following year, the manor came to John Wood,¹ who in 1610 settled it on his daughter Magdalen on her marriage with Sir Thomas Edmondson.² They had one son Henry, after whose death without issue in 1635³ Sir Thomas settled the manor on his three daughters Isabel la Warr, widow, Mary, afterwards the wife of Robert Mildmay, and Louisa the wife of Thomas Gwilliams.⁴ Sir Thomas died in 1639⁵ and in 1640 Louisa and her husband gave up their right in the manor to Mary and Robert Mildmay,⁶ Isabel having evidently died before without issue. Mary and Robert were succeeded by their son Henry, who was holding the manor in 1656.⁷ On his death without issue in 1662, his estates passed to his brother Benjamin Lord Fitz Walter who sold them in 1672 to Edward Strafford,⁸ whose son Henry pulled down the old manor-house and built a new one in its place, which he sold with the manor in 1737 to Thomas, afterwards Sir Thomas Drury, bart.⁹ Through Sir Thomas the manor passed together with the advowson of Little Billing (q.v.) to Lord Brownlow, who conveyed it in 1791 to John Kipling, one of the clerks in chancery and Keeper of the Public Records,¹⁰ of whom it was purchased in 1832 by Mr. Loyd,¹¹ father of Lord Overstone, after which date it has a descent identical with that of Abington Manor (q.v.).

The park which now surrounds the house *PARK* originated in the licence given to Gilbert de Millers by Henry III in 1255 to 'inclose with a dike and hedge or with a wall, his wood of Ouiston, and to make a park thereof'.¹² It is referred to in 1358, when John Waryn of Yardley, a canon of Ravenstone Priory (Bucks.), and others poached deer in Sir Walter Manny's park of Overstone.¹³ During the reign of Henry VIII several grants were made of the keepership of the park.¹⁴

In 1275 two mills are mentioned as belonging to the manor,¹⁵ which were there also in 1372.¹⁶ In 1545 Baldwin Willoughby received a 21 years' lease of a water-mill,¹⁷ which was granted with the manor in 1550 to Thomas Smythe.¹⁸ The second mill must have fallen into disuse before this date as there is mention of one only, which descended with the manor during the 16th and 17th centuries although at the present day there is no trace of it.

The church of *ST. NICHOLAS*, which *CHURCH* stands within the park about a quarter of a mile north of the mansion, was erected on a new site about 1803 at the sole charge of Mr. John Kipling, in place of an older building which was then pulled down.¹⁹ The old church stood in front of the former manor-house and consisted of chancel, nave, north aisle and embattled west tower.²⁰ No adequate record

of it has been preserved, and the belief that it belonged to the Decorated period²¹ is based on insufficient data.

The present building consists of chancel, 15 ft. 6 in. long by 19 ft. 6 in. wide, with vestry on the north and organ-chamber on the south side; nave, 30 ft. 6 in. by 10 ft. 3 in., south aisle, 11 ft. wide, and west tower, 11 ft. 4 in. by 8 ft. 2 in., all these measurements being internal. There is also a porch on the north side of the tower. The chancel and nave are under a single slated eaved roof, and the tower is of three stages with embattled parapet and pinnacles. As originally built, the church consisted only of chancel, nave, and tower, with west gallery and squire's pew on the south side of the chancel.²² It was in the Gothic style of the day, faced with Kingsthorpe stone, and the interior was described in 1849 as being 'emphatically neat'.²³ In 1903 the building was restored, the south aisle and organ-chamber added, the gallery removed, and the interior remodelled. All the fittings, including the font²⁴ and pulpit are modern. There are mural tablets from the old church to Frances, wife of Henry Stratford and daughter of Thomas Penruddock (d. 1717), Edward Stratford (d. 1721), and Elizabeth, wife of the Rev. Paul Ives, rector (d. 1792); later ones commemorate John Kipling (d. 1830), Harriet, Lady Overstone (d. 1864), Lord Overstone (d. 1883), and Canon E. J. Birch, rector 1857-1900. In the east window is some late medieval German glass, with figures of our Lord and St. John the Baptist.

There are three bells: the first an alphabet bell by Hugh Watts 1609, the second by Henry Bagley 1676, and the third by Taylor & Co. of Loughborough, 1903.²⁵

The plate consists of a bread-holder of 1689 inscribed 'The gift of Paul Ives, rector, to the church of Overston 1704'; a cup and paten of 1735, the former inscribed 'Overston. This cup and Paten were exchanged at ye expence of Doctor Paul Ives, Rector, for ye use of ye Communion Table, 1736'; and a flagon of 1735 given by Dr. Ives in the following year.²⁶

The registers before 1812 are as follows: (i) baptisms 1673-1812, burials 1680-1812, (ii) marriages, 1754-1812.

The advowson of Overstone *ADVOU' SON* Church, first mentioned in 1223,²⁷ was appendant to the manor until the end of the 17th century when it was sold by Edward Stratford to Robert Ives,²⁸ in whose family it remained until 1743 when Paul Ives conveyed it to Sir Thomas Drury, bart.²⁹ It was thus re-united with the manor, and descended with it until 1923, when the rectory was united with that of Sywell (q.v.), the patronage of the united benefices being exercised alternately by the Duchy of Cornwall and Mr. G. E. Stott.³⁰

¹ Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), clxxxii, 38; *ibid.* (Ser. 2), cccclxi, 81; Baker, *Northants.* i, 57.

² Feet of F. Div. Co. East. 8 Jas. I.

³ Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), cccxcviii, 42.

⁴ Feet of F. Div. Co. Trin. 12 Chas. I.

⁵ Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), cccxcviii, 42.

⁶ Feet of F. Northants. Hil. 15 Chas. I.

⁷ *Ibid.* Div. Co. Hil. 1656.

⁸ G.E.C. *Peerage*, iii, 373; Feet of F. Northants. Mich. 24 Chas. II; *Recov. R.* East. 25 Chas. II, m. 144.

⁹ Close R. 11 Geo. II, pt. iv, m. 12; Baker, *Northants.* i, 58.

¹⁰ Baker, *Northants.* i, 58.

¹¹ From information supplied by Mr. Dickson.

¹² *Cal. Pat.* 1358-61, p. 51.

¹³ *Cal. Chart.* 1226-57, p. 441.

¹⁴ *L. and P. Hen. VIII*, i, 54, 277; *ibid.* 654.

¹⁵ Mins. Accts. bdle. 1089, no. 6.

¹⁶ Chan. Inq. p.m. 46 Edw. III (1st nos.), no. 38.

¹⁷ *L. and P. Hen. VIII*, xx, 418.

¹⁸ Pat. 4 Edw. VI, pt. viii, m. 9.

¹⁹ Faculty for taking down old church 1803. The new church was not consecrated until July 1807; Baker, *Northants.* i, 60.

²⁰ Bridges, *Hist. of Northants.* i, 460. The chancel had a tiled roof, the nave was leaded, and the east end of the aisle was the burial-place of the Stratford family, built about 1718.

²¹ *Chs. Archd. of N'ton*, 251.

²² The pew had a fire-place and chimney-piece.

²³ *Chs. Archd. N'ton*, 251.

²⁴ The font dates from 1903, and is in memory of Canon Birch, rector (d. 1900).

²⁵ In 1552 there were three bells and a sanctus bell. Bridges records three bells in the old church, but until 1903 there were only two bells in the present tower.

²⁶ Markham, *Ch. Plate of Northants.* 224. About 1800 a chalice was sold by the consent of the whole parish.

²⁷ Harl. MS. 6950.

²⁸ Baker, *Northants.* i, 58.

²⁹ Inst. Bks. (P.R.O.); Feet of F. Northants. Hil. 17 Geo. II.

³⁰ Kelly, *Directory of Northants.*

A HISTORY OF NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

In the reign of Henry III and in 1291 the church was valued at 12 marks,¹ while by 1535 its value had risen to £13 6s. 8d.²

Edward Stratford by his will dated *CHARITIES* 22 January 1714 charged his manor of Overstone with a yearly payment of 20s. to the poor. This charge is paid by the owner of Overstone Farm and is distributed in cash to poor widows, as is a rent-charge of 10s. formerly given by

a Dr. Bentham, also paid by the owner of Overstone Farm.

John Kipling by his will proved 23 September 1831 gave to the rector and churchwardens a sum of £200 Consols, now with the Official Trustees of Charitable Funds, the interest to be applied for the benefit of such poor women who shall have the care of the church. The dividends, amounting to £5 yearly, are paid to the sexton.

PITSFORD

Pitesford, Pidesford (xi–xii cents.); Pisseford (xiii–xiv cents.).

The parish of Pitsford has an area of 1,413 acres. The soil is marl and clay with a subsoil of stone, producing crops of wheat and barley, and the parish is well watered, for there are innumerable little springs scattered over the fields, while a branch of the River Nene forms the western boundary. The village lies to the north of the parish and on the east of the high road from Northampton to Market Harborough and has a fairly elevated position, the church standing at a height of 317 ft. Several roads pass through the village which lies for the most part round their juncture and has a neat and compact appearance, Pitsford Hall standing in its own grounds to the south. The Northampton and Market Harborough branch of the L.M.S. railway passes through the parish, following the course of the river, and there is a station 2 miles south-west of Pitsford with which it is connected by a long lane which crosses the Market Harborough road and rises from 229 ft. to 371. On different sides of the road leading out of the Market Harborough road into the village are two small earth-works, known as Layman's Hill and Barrow Dyke. In Morton's time, the former was about 10 yards wide and of an oblong shape, but it has since been planted. Barrow Dyke is described by Morton as a square figure, with 'two of the sides still remaining; one of them above 80 yards in length',³ but by 1820 nearly all trace of the original form had been destroyed by repeated ploughing.⁴

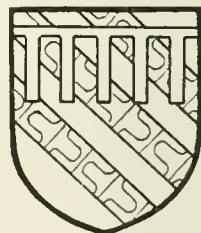
The parish has been inclosed under an Act passed in 1756.⁵

In 1086 the over-*MANORS* lord of the principal manor of *PITSFORD* was Simon the Fleming,⁶ the ancestor of the Barons of Wahull, in whom the overlordship remained vested.⁷ The chief seat of the Wahull barony in this county was at Pattishall (q.v.). As intermediaries between the overlord and the lord of the fee stood the family of Walgrave.⁸

The manor at Domesday was in the possession of



WAHULL. Or three crescents gules.



PITSFORD. Gules three bends vair and a label of five points or.

Fulcher,⁹ the ancestor of the Malsors, Henry Malsors being lord of Pitsford in the 12th century.¹⁰ Geoffrey Malsors, his successor, rebelled against King John, who confiscated his estates in 1215 and bestowed them upon Godescall de Maghelines, but Henry III restored them to Geoffrey, on the latter returning to his fealty in the following year.¹¹ In 1227 Geoffrey enfeoffed Robert de Leicester and Lettice his wife, who was probably the daughter of William Malsors, senior, of Milton Malzor, of 2 fees in Pitsford, of which they were to hold one in demesne and one in service,¹² and the next year Walter Malsors gave up to Geoffrey all his right in a fee in Walgrave and Pitsford.¹³ Robert Leicester and Lettice appear to have been followed by Robert de Hauton who was holding a fee in Pitsford in 1316¹⁴ and 1346.¹⁵ By 1428 it was in the hands of Nicholas Horncastle,¹⁶ possibly tenant only for a term of years, as it descended to John Hauton who died somewhere about the end of the 15th century, leaving 3 daughters and co-heirs, of whom the second died without issue.¹⁷ In 1552 William Chauncey, a descendant of the eldest daughter, and Joan his wife gave up their right in the manor to John Shuckburgh, the son of the youngest daughter.¹⁸ John's son George died in 1572 leaving a son John aged 3 whom he entrusted to the care of his brother John,¹⁹ and a widow Cassandra who married as her second husband Richard Wightman. John who came of age in 1589²⁰ married Anne, with whom he was holding the estate in 1593,²¹ but after this date it was apparently alienated in portions and all manorial rights lost.²²

Holding jointly with Henry Malsors in the 12th century was Philip de Pitsford²³ and in 1242 Robert le Jeofne and William de Insula with Mabel his wife are mentioned as holding the 2 fees in Pitsford,²⁴ perhaps through marriage with widows of a Malsors and Pitsford respectively. By 1227, however, the Malsors had subinfeudated the Pitsfords, the heirs of Ascelin son of Philip holding of them at that date,²⁵ and the Pitsfords continued to hold of the Malsors, Thomas son of

¹ Cott. MS. Nero. D. x, fol. 175 d.; *Pope Nich. Tax.* (Rec. Com.), 40.

² *Valor Eccles.* (Rec. Com.), iv, 325.

³ Morton, *Northants.* 548.

⁴ Baker, *Northants.* i, 65.

⁵ Priv. Act, 29 Geo. II, cap. 9.

⁶ *V.C.H. Northants.* i, 340.

⁷ *Bk. of Fees*, 500; *Feud. Aids*, iv, 15; Chan. Inq. p.m. 32 Edw. I, no. 45; *ibid.* 15 Ric. II, pt. 1, no. 24.

⁸ *Feud. Aids*, iv, 15; Chan. Inq. p.m. 32 Edw. I, no. 45; *ibid.* 45 Edw. III, no. 57;

ibid. 5 Hen. V, no. 39; *ibid.* 12 Hen. VI, no. 20.

⁹ *V.C.H. Northants.* i, 340.

¹⁰ *Ibid.* i, 381.

¹¹ Baker, op. cit. i, 61.

¹² Pipe R. 5 Hen. III, m. 13; Feet of F. Northants. 11 Hen. III, no. 129; *ibid.* 13 Edw. I, no. 181.

¹³ *Ibid.* 12 Hen. III, no. 226.

¹⁴ *Feud. Aids*, iv, 23.

¹⁵ Bridges, *Northants.* i, 46.

¹⁶ *Feud. Aids*, iv, 37.

¹⁷ Metcalfe, *Northants. Vis.* 13, 47.

¹⁸ Feet of F. Northants. Mich. 6 Edw. VI.

¹⁹ Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), clxv, 130.

²⁰ Chan. Proc. (Ser. 2), bdle. 230, 50.

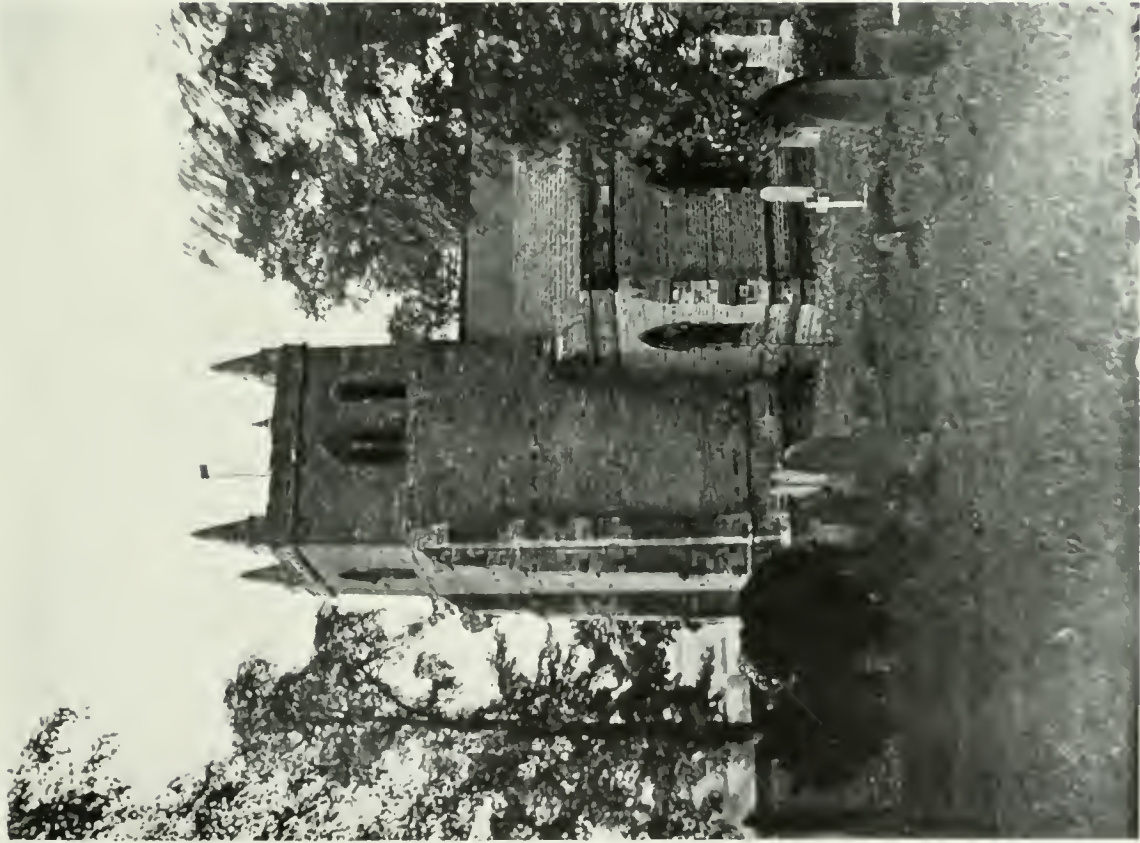
²¹ Add. Chart. 25174.

²² Baker, op. cit. i, 62.

²³ *V.C.H. Northants.* i, 381.

²⁴ *Bk. of Fees*, 940.

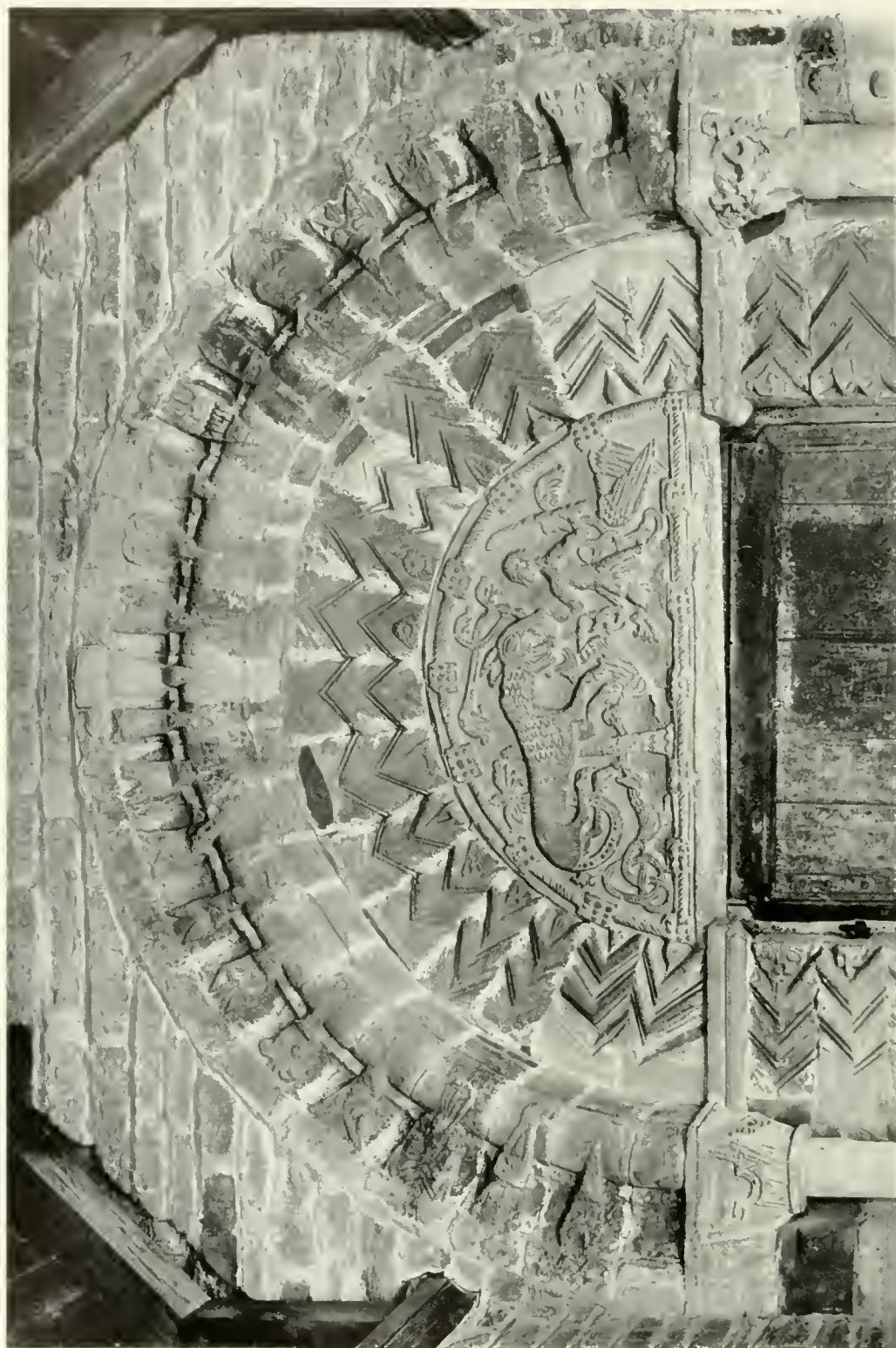
²⁵ Feet of F. Northants. 11 Hen. III, no. 129.



PITSFORD CHURCH: THE TOWER



PITSFORD CHURCH: THE FONT



PITSFORD CHURCH: TYMPANUM OF SOUTH DOOR

Philip being in possession of the manor in 1284.¹ He was followed by Laurence de Pitsford who was holding the fee in 1346², but by 1362 it was in the possession of John Laurence and Joan his wife, who conveyed it in that year to Richard de Bollesore, parson of Boughton church,³ probably as a preliminary to its alienation to Sir Henry Green of Boughton who died seized of 2 messuages and 2 virgates in Pitsford in 1369,⁴ which by 1392 had increased to 6 messuages and 2 carucates.⁵ The manor acquired by Sir Henry Green remained in the Green family and has had a descent analogous to that of Boughton (q.v.), Maj.-Gen. Sir R. G. H. Howard-Vyse being the present lord of the manor.

Another estate in Pitsford was held in 1086 of Robert Count of Mortain,⁶ but the Mortain fee escheated to the Crown in 1106,⁷ and the greater part of the lands and honors became incorporated with the Earldom of Leicester, bestowed upon Robert Count of Meulan in 1107.⁸ A division afterwards took place, one of the two parts becoming known as the honor of Winchester, of which Pitsford was a fee, and passing through the families of la Zouche, Holand, and Lovell,⁹ of Brackley (q.v.).

Holding under the Count of Mortain in 1086 was Humphrey, the successor of Osmund who held it freely in the time of King Edward.¹⁰ In the 12th century the Earl of Leicester held this estate, then estimated at 6 small virgates although in Domesday only 1 virgate is mentioned.¹¹ After this date there were two mesne lords between the overlord and the tenant of the land, for in 1271 Richard de Hanrede, Humphrey's successor, held it of William Maufe of Sussex, who held of Philip de Nevill, the latter holding of Roger de Quincy, Earl of Winchester.¹² The place of one of the mesne lords was taken by Hugh de Scales who was holding lands in Haslebeach and Pitsford in 1314,¹³ and by his descendants holding in 1423 and 1454.¹⁴ Richard de Hanrede, lord of the estate in 1271¹⁵ and 1316,¹⁶ was succeeded by his son another Richard, who in 1330 brought an action against Henry de Wilby and William Francis to recover 3 messuages and 3 virgates of land in Pitsford.¹⁷ He was holding in 1346,¹⁸ but by 1428 the estate was divided between his heirs and Thomas Green,¹⁹ the latter's share probably becoming absorbed in the chief manor held by him. After 1455 there is no further mention of the estate²⁰ which doubtless was separated into many small portions among which all manorial rights were lost.

The Brotherhood of St. Catherine, Northampton, held lands in Pitsford, which were granted in 1551 to Sir Thomas Tresham,²¹ and mentioned in a survey of Northampton Town Lands, taken in 1586.²²

There were two mills mentioned in 1086, one on the manor held of Walter the Fleming, worth 12d.,²³ and the other on the Count of Mortain's estate, worth 2s.²⁴ The latter was probably the one acquired by Hugh Dyne, who granted it to Robert the miller in 1202.²⁵ There is no further mention of the mills until 1586,

when they are mentioned in the Survey of Northampton Town lands as standing on the brook separating Pitsford from Brixworth, one being known as Watkins Mill and the other as Gyhles' Mill,²⁶ but there is no further trace of them.

According to an Exchequer deposition taken in 1674, the customary way of tithing wool in Pitsford was to lay 10 fleeces together in a row, out of which the owner took two, the rector afterwards choosing one. If there were only seven, the rector was to take one in the same manner and pay the owner ½d. a fleece for the three wanting. Whatever the size of the fleece, it was to be reckoned in tithing, and if the odd fleeces were under seven, they were to be the worst ones, the owner paying ½d. for the tithe of each of them. The customary way of tithing barley was for the owner first to 'cocke' and rake his lands and then to give notice to the tithing-man to take the tithes before the corn was carried. The lambs were tithed on 3 May.²⁷

The church of *ALL SAINTS* stands on *CHURCH* the north-west side of the village and consists of chancel, 22 ft. by 16 ft.; nave of five bays, 53 ft. by 17 ft. 6 in.; north and south aisles, 12 ft. 6 in. wide; south porch, and west tower, 9 ft. 6 in. by 8 ft. 6 in., all these measurements being internal.

The south doorway is of 12th-century date, and some fragments of the same period are built into the tower arch and the east end of the north aisle.²⁸ The tower belongs to the later part of the 13th century, but the rest of the building, where not modern, is of 14th-century date. In the middle of the 19th century it was said to be 'a mere decorated shell, having suffered almost every mutilation, tracery of windows cut out, strings cut away, doorway blocked, roof lowered, lean-to vestry against tower, piers between nave and aisles removed and a flat ceiling thrown over both, west gallery, and high irregular close pews'.²⁹ In 1867 the chancel, south aisle, and porch were rebuilt, new nave arcades erected, and the whole building re-roofed. The interior was at the same time remodelled, the pews and gallery being done away with and new windows inserted in the north aisle. The new work is in the style of the 14th century, and is faced with local ironstone. The roof of chancel and nave are covered with Colleyweston slates, and the aisle roofs are leaded, behind plain parapets.

The only original windows now remaining, other than those in the tower, are the east and west windows of the north aisle, the former of three trefoiled lights with reticulated tracery, and the latter ogee-headed of two trefoiled lights with quatrefoil above. This window has been shortened at the bottom by raising the sill. An original moulded string course runs round the north aisle, and there is a pointed north doorway of two continuous chamfered orders with hood-mould.

The chancel, being modern, has no features of interest, but in the east wall of the north aisle, at its south end, is a trefoil-headed piscina recess, the bowl

¹ *Feud. Aids*, iv, 15.
² Bridges, *Northants*, i, 46.
³ Feet of F. Northants. 36 Edw. III, no. 516.
⁴ Chan. Inq. p.m. 43 Edw. III, pt. i, no. 48.
⁵ Ibid. 15 Rich. II, pt. i, no. 24.
⁶ *F.C.H. Northants*, i, 323.
⁷ Baker, *Northants*, i, 120.
⁸ G.E.C. *Peerage* (1st ed.), v, 40 seq.
⁹ Ibid. viii, 168-70, 222; iv, 236.
¹⁰ *F.C.H. Northants*, i, 323.

¹¹ Ibid. i, 381.
¹² Chan. Inq. p.m. 55 Hen. III, no. 36.
¹³ Ibid. 7 Edw. II, no. 36.
¹⁴ Ibid. 1 Hen. VI, no. 51; *ibid.* 33 Hen. VI, no. 28.
¹⁵ Ibid. 55 Hen. III, no. 36.
¹⁶ *Feud. Aids*, ii, 23.
¹⁷ Assize R. 3 Edw. III, mm. 44, 167 d.
¹⁸ Bridges, *Northants*, i, 461.
¹⁹ *Feud. Aids*, iv, 37.
²⁰ Chan. Inq. p.m. 33 Hen. VI, no. 28.
²¹ Pat. 5 Edw. VI, pt. vii, m. 12.

²² Cox, *Records of Borough of Northampton*, ii, 161.
²³ *F.C.H. Northants*, i, 340.
²⁴ Ibid. i, 323.
²⁵ Feet of F. Northants. 4 John, no. 156.
²⁶ Cox, *Records of the Borough of Northampton*, ii, 161.
²⁷ Exch. Dep. Trin. 26 Chas. II, no. 2.
²⁸ Stone with chevron ornament in tower arch, abacus, and top of capital, and a carved stone in north aisle.
²⁹ *Chr. Archd. N^oton* (1849), 245.

A HISTORY OF NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

of which has gone, and in the north wall a moulded recess at floor level, now empty, the hood-mould of which is cut away.

The 12th-century south doorway has a semicircular arch of two orders inclosing a sculptured tympanum. The inner chevron-moulded order is continued to the ground below the imposts, but the outer order, composed of beak-heads, rests on shafts with sculptured capitals and moulded bases. The tympanum has already been described.¹ The oak door and its iron hinges are ancient: the ends of the hinges are split and curved back to form foliations.

The tower has a plain parapet with angle pinnacles and retains all its architectural features. It has a moulded plinth and double buttresses of four stages, with a banded circular shaft running up the contained angle. Below the bell-chamber story the walls are blank except on the west, where there is a single trefoil-headed window. The pointed bell-chamber windows are of two trefoiled lights, with hood-moulds terminating in heads, and double chamfered jambs. The windows are placed in the usual position in the middle of the wall on all four sides, but on the north and south a second opening of slightly less height, and consisting of a single cinquefoiled light, occurs farther east.² The tower arch is of three continuous chamfered orders. There is no vice.

The lower part of a 15th-century chancel screen, which seems to have been in position before the rebuilding of the church,³ is now at the west end of the north aisle, where it makes part of an enclosure forming the vestry. The moulded uprights have been cut away 30 in. above the lower solid-panelled portion.

The font is of 14th-century date and consists of an octagonal bowl, with canopied niches, on a panelled and buttressed stem. On the west side of the bowl is a projection from the rim forming a ledge, in which are four small holes, probably intended for the fixing of a desk.⁴

There are five bells, the treble by Henry Bagley of Ecton, 1698, the second by James Keene of Woodstock, undated, and the others dated 1632, also by Keene.⁵ They were rehung and tuned in 1893.

The plate consists of a silver cup and paten of 1560, a paten of 1635 given by Elizabeth and Deborah Stephens in 1685, a paten and flagon of 1870 given by the Rev. Granville Sykes Howard-Vyse, rector,⁶ and a bread-box given in 1919 in memory of Lieut. Nightingale.

The registers begin in 1560. The first volume contains all entries, with certain omissions, until 1723; the

next covers the period 1714 to 1746 and is followed by 'volume four', containing entries of baptisms from 1748 to 1812, marriages 1747 to 1771 and burials 1751 to 1812.

The right of presentation to the *ADVOWSON* church of Pitsford was appurtenant to the fees held of the Wadhull Barony and was exercised alternately by the two feudatories, one of the moieties being granted with the manor to Godescall de Maghelines in 1215.⁷ This part of the advowson passed through Robert Leicester and Lettice to Robert de Hauton and his wife Agnes of whom it was purchased in 1354 by Sir Henry Green.⁸

The other moiety was alienated by the Pitsfords to the Boughtons of Boughton,⁹ of whom it was probably acquired by Sir Henry Green with Boughton manor and advowson in 1340.¹⁰ The advowson remained attached to the manor, although it was leased out during the 17th century,¹¹ and is at present in the gift of Maj.-Gen. Sir R. G. H. Howard-Vyse.

The rectory of Pitsford was valued at 8 marks c. 1254,¹² and at £5 13s. 4d. in 1291.¹³ In 1535 it was worth £18 10s.¹⁴ and in 1544, Thomas Saxby, the rector and incumbent, compounded for the rectory, stated to be worth £17 19s. 5d.¹⁵

One of the rectors of Pitsford was Robert Skinner, the second son of Edmund Skinner who was rector there before him. He succeeded his father at Pitsford in 1628, but in 1636 was appointed Bishop of Bristol and rector of Green's Norton. In 1641 he was translated to the see of Oxford, but imprisoned in the Tower the same year and deprived of Green's Norton in 1643 for his malignity against the government. At the Restoration he became one of the King's Commissioners of Oxford University, and was appointed Bishop of Worcester in 1663 where he died in 1670.¹⁶

Earl of Strafford's Charity. A yearly *CHARITIES* sum of £5 is paid for the use of the poor by Mr. J. H. Marlow out of lands formerly belonging to the Earls of Strafford. The money is distributed by the Parish Council in cash to about 60 recipients.

Lieut.-Col. John Vesey Nugent by Indenture dated 26 January 1910 gave a sum of £600 Consols for the general benefit of the poor, and appointed the rector, churchwardens, and chairman of the Parish Council to be the trustees. The Stock is with the Official Trustees of Charitable Funds, and the dividends are applied in subscriptions to the Hospital, in the distribution of coal to the poor, and in grants to the sick.

SPRATTON WITH LITTLE CREATON

Spretone(xi cent.); Sprocton, Sprotton(xiii-xv cent.).

In 1831 the parish of Spratton included the hamlet of Little Creaton; since 1884 the latter has been amalgamated with Great Creaton for civil purposes but it is

still ecclesiastically part of Spratton. The parish has an area of 2,248 acres, mainly permanent grass. The soil is clay and marl with a subsoil of stone, and produces crops of wheat, barley, and oats.

¹ *V.C.H. Northants.* ii, 196-7, where it is figured. The doorway has been restored: some of the chevrons—four in the arch and thirteen in the jambs—are new or re-tooled.

² Both windows open to the bell-chamber, which seems at no time to have been divided.

³ *Chs. Archd. N'ton*, 245.

⁴ That the holes were not intended for the hinge of the font-cover is proved by the

staple not being opposite the projecting ledge: the font is figured in Paley's *Baptismal Fonts*, 1844, and in Francis Bond's *Fonts and Font Covers*, 69. The present cover is modern.

⁵ North, *Ch. Bells of Northants.* 383, where the inscriptions are given.

⁶ Markham, *Ch. Plate of Northants.* 240.

⁷ Harl. MS. 6950.

⁸ Feet of F. Northants. 28 Edw. III,

no. 403.

⁹ Linc. Epis. Reg., cited by Baker, *Northants.* i, 63.

¹⁰ Feet of F. Northants. 13 Edw. III, no. 195; De Banco R. 363, m. 53.

¹¹ Inst. Bks. (P.R.O.).

¹² Cott. MS. Nero D. x, fol. 175 d.

¹³ *Pope Nich. Tax.* (Rec. Com.), 40.

¹⁴ *Valor Eccles.* (Rec. Com.), iv, 324.

¹⁵ Composition Bk. iii, 20.

¹⁶ *Dict. Nat. Biog.*

The northern part lies fairly high, over 400 ft.; on the west, south, and east, where small tributaries of the Nene form the boundary, the land does not reach 300 ft., rising sharply towards the centre where the village is situated. The road from Northampton to Lutterworth enters the parish on the south of Spratton Bridge at a height of 250 ft. and passing by Spratton Grange, a fine brick house built about 1848, surrounded by a park, the property of Mrs. W. H. Foster, rises by an abrupt incline till it reaches 448 ft. at its junction with the road from Teeton, which crosses the parish from west to east, and passes through the village leading by a descent to Spratton station, on the Market Harborough Branch of the L.M.S. railway.

The village is large and divided into two portions, both connected with the main road, in the northern one of which is Spratton Hall, the seat of Lord Erskine. The Hall is a plain 18th-century house of three stories, built of limestone from Kingsthorpe and roofed with slates. The date 1773 on the rain-water leads probably indicates the year of its erection. There are later additions in red brick on the east side.¹ The church and vicarage, a thatched two-story building of ironstone, built in 1704 by the Rev. Royle Bateman, are in the centre of the village, with a Baptist chapel close by, built in 1840. There are some stone houses bearing dates between 1615 and 1684. There was formerly behind the old Manor House a square stone pigeon house, containing 1,600 nesting-places. This, which was pulled down about 1890,² was probably the successor of one of the pigeon houses assigned to the Abbey of St. James when the vicarage was obtained in 1309.

Little Creaton lies to the north of Spratton to the east of the Lutterworth Road and south-east of Great Creaton. It consists of a few scattered farms and cottages and of Highgate House, the residence of Colonel Charles Coote, which stands facing the main road at an altitude of 451 ft.

At the Survey of 1086, the Count of *MANORS* Mortain had 3 hides less 1 virgate in

SPRATTON which were held of him by William and Durand as separate manors.³ The overlordship passed to Robert Earl of Leicester, and later to the honor of Winchester, as in Pitsford (q.v.). On the division of this honor in 1264 between the three daughters and co-heirs of Roger de Quincey, Earl of Winchester, the overlordship became the right of Margaret, wife of William Ferrers, Earl of Derby,⁴ in whose family it remained vested until 1445, when it passed to the Greys, afterwards Marquesses of Dorset, by the marriage of Elizabeth, the heir of the Ferrers, with Sir Edward Grey, Lord Ferrers of Groby in right of his wife.⁵ Their great-grandson Thomas Grey, Marquess of Dorset, was overlord in 1506,⁶ but twenty years later the manor was held of Edward Stanley, Earl of Derby, as of his manor of Brackley, head of the honor of Winchester in this county. Edward Stanley's great-grandfather Thomas Lord Stanley, 1st Earl of Derby of this family, had obtained a grant of Brackley and of the overlordship of those fees which had been assigned

in 1264 to Helen, the third daughter and co-heir of Roger de Quincey, Earl of Winchester, and wife of Alan la Zouche. These two branches of the honor of Winchester were completely disconnected, with distinct and separate histories, and the mistake possibly arose through some careless error in the inquisition taken in 1526, which was afterwards copied by succeeding generations and turned to account by the Stanleys; for the overlordship remained in this family and passed by



STANLEY. *Argent a bend azure with three harts' heads cabossed or thereon.*



EGERTON. *Argent a lion gules between three pheons sable.*

marriage to the Egertons, Earls and afterwards Dukes of Bridgwater.⁷ Bridges writing in 1720 states that the manor was then in the possession of the Duke of Bridgwater,⁸ and Baker, a century later, says 'this Manor is still subject to the Earl of Bridgwater's leet for the honor and a court is occasionally held in the court house, now the property of Mr. W. Lantsbery'.⁹

The manor which was held by Durand at Domesday was afterwards known as *ARDERNS, CHAMBERS,* or *MAXES* (Maukes) *MANOR* after the families connected with it. It passed from Durand to Simon de Croppeni who in 1205 gave the king 20 marks and a palfrey in order to retain it,¹⁰ and in 1222 recovered it from the king, who had confiscated it with the lands of other Normans.¹¹ Simon apparently alienated his holding to the Pinkneys of Weedon Pinkney (q.v.). In 1234 Henry de Pinkney subinfeudated Eustacia de Pinkney in his land in Spratton,¹² which she carried in marriage to Thomas de Ardern, while the Pinkneys remained intermediary lords, the last mention of them in Spratton occurring in 1284.¹³ In the same year that she obtained this fee in Spratton, Eustacia received a grant of the lands of Hugh de Warewill, a Norman, until the heirs of Hugh should return to their allegiance,¹⁴ and in 1265 Simon son of Hugh de Croppeni sold certain lands in Spratton to Eustacia and Thomas de Ardern¹⁵ her son. The latter took up arms against Henry III and his lands were confiscated and granted apparently to his cousin Thomas de Ardern of Hanwell,¹⁶ who held them in 1284¹⁷ and was succeeded by his son another Thomas, who in 1309 recovered half of the manor against John de Ferrers with damages assessed at £42.¹⁸ Thomas, who was still holding in 1316,¹⁹ died before 1324, leaving a son and heir Thomas, then a minor, in the custody of Margaret Bancester.²⁰ Thomas, who was holding the manor in 1346,²¹ was succeeded by a daughter and heir Joan, who married Sir John Swinford, lord of Spratton in 1366.²² The latter, who survived his wife, died in

¹ *Northants N. & Q.* v (N.S.), 97.

² *Ex inf.* Miss G. M. Roberts.

³ *V.C.H. Northants.* i, 328.

⁴ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* i, pp. 233, 256; Cott. MS. Nero D. ix, fol. 194.

⁵ *G.E.C. Peerage*, iii, 66, 339-41.

⁶ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), xi, 15.

⁷ *G.E.C. Peerage* (2nd ed.), ii, 311-16.

⁸ Bridges, *Northants.* i, 465.

⁹ Baker, *Northants.* i, 66.

¹⁰ Pipe R. *Northants.* 7 John, m. 21 d.

¹¹ *Rot. Lit. Claus.* (Rec. Com.), i, 485.

¹² Feet of F. *Northants.* 18 Hen. III, no. 339.

¹³ *Feud. Aids*, iv, 15.

¹⁴ *Excerpta e Rot. Fin.* (Rec. Com.), i, 263.

¹⁵ Feet of F. *Northants.* 49 Hen. III, no. 848.

¹⁶ *Geneal. Mag.* i, 571 seq.

¹⁷ *Feud. Aids*, ii, 15.

¹⁸ *Assize R.* 1343, m. 29.

¹⁹ *Feud. Aids*, iv, 23.

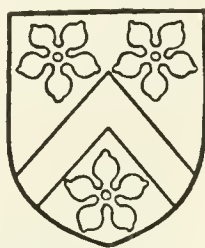
²⁰ De Banco R. 253, m. 52.

²¹ *Comp. Walt. Parles*, cited by Bridges, *Northants.* i, 464.

²² *Harl. Soc. Publ.* xii, 179-80; Add. Chart. 21777, 21779.

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1371, when the manor passed to their daughter Elizabeth,¹ who by 1376 was the wife of William de Addebury² and afterwards married Roger Chambers, to whom she brought the manor.³ From Roger it passed to Thomas Chambers, who was holding in 1428⁴ and who was succeeded by William, at whose death in 1494,⁵ the manor was worth £30. William was succeeded by his brother John, who in 1498 accused Thomas Parnell, late vicar of Spratton, of taking 12 hares, 480 rabbits, 6 pheasants, 100 tench, 300 roach, and 100 bream from his warren and pond, to the value of £20; but Thomas in his defence alleged that he took only 2 tench and 6 roach, and that John had given him permission to fish in his pond and deliver the fish he took to Sir John Harrington.⁶ At John's death, without heirs of his body in 1506, the manor was divided into moieties between Henry Maxe, son of his elder sister Jane, and Elizabeth his younger sister, wife of Richard Inguersby.⁷ The one moiety, known as Maxe's Manor, passed to Edmund Maxe, of whom it was purchased by Laurence Manley of Northampton, mercer. He died in 1557, when the moiety of the manor was said to be worth £4 per annum and was left to Francis and Robert, the sons of his eldest son Edward who was Mayor of Northampton in 1575.⁸ In spite of their settlement the moiety appears to have been obtained by Laurence, the eldest son of Edward, who died holding it in 1601, leaving a son and heir Laurence,⁹ who with his wife Sarah and his son Laurence and the latter's wife Mary were in possession in 1652, after which date it probably became merged in the manor of Downhalls (q.v.), with which it was then held,¹⁰ as there is no subsequent mention of it. The other moiety belonging in 1506 to the Inguersbys passed to Thomas, evidently a son of Richard, who died seised of the manor called Chambers, jointly with Henry Maxe, in 1526, when it was inherited by his son Richard,¹¹ at whose death in 1530 his brother George, then aged 10, came into possession. It remained in this family for many years,¹² and between 1582 and 1613 was in the possession of Thomas Inguersby,¹³ by whom it was doubtless sold to Robert Owen of Llanassaph, Flint, as he by his will¹⁴ proved in 1661 left it and all his estates in Northamptonshire to his wife Frances. She married as her second husband Mostyn and was again a widow in 1693, in which year she united with her daughter Elizabeth, the heir of Robert Owen and then wife of William Fitzherbert of Swynnerton, Staf-



CHAMBERS. *Gules a chevron between three cinquefoils or.*

fordshire, and of Norbury, Derby., to sell the moiety to Edward Chapman,¹⁵ after which date its history cannot be traced.

Another manor in Spratton which was held of the honor of Peverel appears for the first time in the 16th century, in the possession of the Downhall family of Geddington from whom it had acquired the name of the *MANOR OF DOWNHALL*. In 1547 it was sold by Thomas Downhall and Margaret his wife and by Richard Downhall and Mary his wife to Laurence Manley,¹⁶ the owner of Maxe's moiety, and the patron of the church, and was said at his death in 1557 to be worth £3 3s. 4d. a year.¹⁷ It was settled on his grandchildren Francis and Robert, who were in possession of the manor in 1611,¹⁸ and later in the same year, Francis having died, his son Robert alienated the manor to Laurence Manley¹⁹ his cousin. By 1658 it was in the hands of John Manley, a member of the same family, who conveyed it that year to Arthur Goodday.²⁰ William Goodday held it in 1695 and 1706,²¹ and it passed with the greater part of the rectory to his granddaughter Ann Walker,²² whose daughter Anne brought it in marriage to the Beet family,²³ whose representative Henry Beet with Elizabeth his wife was in possession in 1826,²⁴ after which date the manorial rights appear to have fallen into abeyance.

Another manor in Spratton amounting to 1 hide was held of the Countess Judith at Domesday and remained attached to the Balliol fee of the honor of Huntingdon. As under-tenant in 1086 stood Rohais,²⁵ who was succeeded in the greater part of her lands by a family who presumably took their name of Roys from her. Robert son of Robert, who held $\frac{2}{3}$ of half a fee here in 1242,²⁶ had acquired lands here in 1227 and 1239²⁷ which passed to his son Roger Roys²⁸ and to his grandson William, who was living in 1284²⁹ and at whose death c. 1308 the custody of his lands and of his son Roger, then a minor, was granted to Herbert de Borhunte.³⁰ Roger Roys came of age in 1317³¹ and in 1330 had view of frankpledge in his manor.³² In 1346 his son Robert was still lord of this manor,³³ but by 1428 this estate had been obtained by Thomas Chambers,³⁴ lord of Ardern's Manor in Spratton into which it became absorbed.

A small portion of the lands held by Rohais in 1086 was in the possession of Walter FitzTheobald in 1242,³⁵ as $\frac{1}{3}$ of half a fee, and came in course of descent to John FitzTheobald, the owner in 1346,³⁶ but there is no further mention of this part of the fee.

One virgate and 1 bovate of land in Spratton were held in 1086 of Robert de Buci,³⁷ from whom the overlordship passed to the Bassets of Weldon.³⁸ The under-tenant at Domesday was Ralph; and the estate formed

¹ Chan. Inq. p.m. 46 Edw. III (1st nos.), no. 57.

² Feet of F. Div. Co. 50 Edw. III, no. 140.

³ De Banco R. Trin. 13 Rich. II, m. 139 d.

⁴ Feud. Aids, iv, 37.

⁵ Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), ix, 60.

⁶ De Banco R. 946, m. 337.

⁷ Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), xx, 15.

⁸ Ibid. cxii, 127; Chan. Proc. Eliz. G. g.

⁹ Ibid. no. 43.

¹⁰ Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), cclxx, 118;

Feet of F. Northants. East. 8 Jas. I.

¹¹ Ibid. Mich. 1652.

¹² Excheq. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), dcxc, 5.

¹³ Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), lii, 69; *ibid.* (Ser. 2), lix, 176.

¹⁴ Feet of F. Northants. Mich. 24 & 25

Eliz.; *ibid.* Mich. 9 Jas. I; *ibid.* Trin.

11 Jas. I; *ibid.* Mich. 13 Jas. I.

¹⁵ P.C.C. 135 May.

¹⁶ MS. Bk. *penes* Mr. B. T. Fitzherbert of Swynnerton; Feet of F. Northants.

Hil. 4 & 5 Will. and M.

¹⁷ Ibid. East. 1 Edw. VI.

¹⁸ Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), cxii, 127.

¹⁹ Feet of F. Northants. Trin. 9 Jas. I.

²⁰ Ibid. Mich. 9 Jas. I.

²¹ Ibid. Trin. 1658; *Recov. R. Trin.*

1658, m. 132.

²² Ibid. East. 7 Will. and M. m. 166;

Feet of F. Northants. Trin. 5 Anne.

²³ *Harl. Soc. Publ.* xiv, 663.

²⁴ *Recov. R. Hil.* 33 Geo. III, m. 333.

²⁵ Feet of F. Northants. East. 7 Geo. IV.

²⁶ *V.C.H. Northants.* i, 354.

²⁷ *Bk. of Fees*, 938.

²⁸ Feet of F. Northants. 11 Hen. III, no.

147; *ibid.* 24 Hen. III, no. 398.

²⁹ *Anct. Deeds (P.R.O.)*, A. 8869, A.

6077.

³⁰ Feud. Aids, iv, 15.

³¹ *Cal. Pat.* 1307-13, p. 52.

³² Chan. Inq. p.m. 11 Edw. II, no. 53.

³³ *Plac. de Quo War.* (Rec. Com.), 558.

³⁴ *Comput.* Walter Parles, cited by

Bridges, *Northants.* i, 464.

³⁵ Feud. Aids, iv, 37.

³⁶ *Bk. of Fees*, 938.

³⁷ *Comput.* Walter Parles, cited by

Bridges, *Northants.* i, 464.

³⁸ *V.C.H. Northants.* i, 336.

part of the $\frac{1}{2}$ fee in Boughton, Spratton, and Creaton held in 1242 by Simon le Sauvage and 'his partners'.¹ In 1284 Adam Young held the lands from Ralph Danvers, who held them of the Barony of Weldon,² but no further records of this estate are known.

The de Cretons bestowed many lands upon the Abbot and Convent of St. James, Henry de Creton conferring on them at the beginning of the 13th century 2 acres of land in Longfurlong which William son of Richard de Houghton, his tenant, gave them.³ Their possessions here in 1291 were valued at 6s.⁴ but in 1535 had risen to 40s.⁵ and after the Dissolution were granted in 1543 to Henry Cartwright,⁶ who alienated them to Laurence Manley,⁷ the owner of the rectory and advowson, with which they were afterwards held.

There was a mill rendering 6s. attached to the Mortain estate in 1086.⁸ It descended with Durand's part of the fee,⁹ and on the division of the manor in 1506 the water-mill was also held in moieties¹⁰ and is mentioned for the last time in 1530 in conjunction with a horse-mill in the possession of Richard Inguersby.¹¹

Another mill mentioned in Domesday was appurtenant to the fee held of the honor of Huntingdon,¹² but although there is mention of $\frac{1}{2}$ mill in this estate in 1227,¹³ it appears to have fallen into disuse.

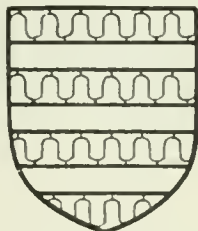
LITTLE CREATON. (Creptone, xi cent.) The Count of Mortain had $\frac{1}{2}$ hide in Little Creaton in 1086 which was held of him by William (de Cahanes),¹⁴ his under-tenant also in Spratton.¹⁵ These two holdings coalesced to form one manor called indifferently Spratton or Little Creaton which, at the division of the earldom of Leicester in 1204,¹⁶ became a fee of the honor of Leicester,¹⁷ to which it remained attached as late as 1485 when a moiety of the manor escheated to the Crown through attainder and continued to be held of the sovereign,¹⁸ the last mention of the overlordship occurring in 1622.¹⁹

William, the Domesday under-tenant, was ancestor of the Keynes of Dodford (q.v.). Their interest was only that of intermediary lords, a position which they ceased to hold in 1485 with respect to the moiety above mentioned, although the overlordship of the other moiety remained their prerogative as late as 1720.²⁰

Holding under William in 1086 was Humphrey,²¹ who was succeeded by Herbert, lord of Creaton in the 12th century.²² The latter may have been related to

Simon de Creton, who was lord of the manor towards the end of the same century,²³ and was succeeded by his son Henry.²⁴ In 1205 Henry gave to William de Montacute and Emma his wife, in exchange for lands in Creaton which were her dower as the widow of William de Creton, 1 virgate in Spratton for the life of Emma with reversion to Henry;²⁵ but as the Montacutes afterwards appear as lords of part of Creaton, holding under the de Cretons,²⁶ they doubtless acquired this land in fee. Henry's son Simon held Creaton in 1242,²⁷ and was followed by his son Hugh, who in 1278 obtained licence from the Abbey of St. James to hear Mass in the chapel built by his father in his court at Little Creaton.²⁸ He was succeeded by his son John, who held this estate in 1316.²⁹

The first of the Montacutes who appears as lord of part of Spratton and Little Creaton under the de Cretons is Simon son of Simon, who in 1276 was arraigned for neglecting to pay geld and do suit of court.³⁰ John his son occurs as lord in 1284³¹ and in 1346 another John Montacute is recorded as joint lord of Little Creaton and Spratton with John de Creton above mentioned.³² After this date there is a division of the fee, half being held in 1428 by a John de Creton.³³ He mortgaged his lands to the Abbot of St. James's for £132 and died without being able to redeem them, for they were conveyed to trustees in 1468³⁴ and sold about 1484 to William Catesby,³⁵ who was attainted and beheaded the following year, when his lands were confiscated by the Crown and granted in 1489 to Sir David Owen.³⁶ After David's death his son John in 1548 sold the reversion of the manor after the death of his mother Anne to Thomas Twigden,³⁷ who died in 1580 and by his will left one-half of the manor to his eldest son Edward and the other to his wife Anne with reversion to Edward,³⁸ but Anne gave up her right in the premises to Edward for £120.³⁹ The whole manor, thus acquired by Edward, was settled by him in 1602, on the marriage of his eldest daughter Elizabeth to William Knighton, on himself and his wife Anne for life with reversion to Elizabeth and William.⁴⁰ Edward and Anne dying in 1614,⁴¹ the manor was inherited by Elizabeth, a widow since 1607, with a son Thomas.⁴² Elizabeth married as her second husband Gifford Bullock and was again a widow in 1651 when, her son Thomas probably having died without issue, a recovery of the manor was suffered in order to break the entail.⁴³ Elizabeth died shortly afterwards, and the manor appears to have passed to John Atkins, who sold it in 1665 to Theophilus Hart.⁴⁴ The manor reappears in 1713 when Thomas Parkyns and Dorothy



KEYNES. Vair three bars gules.

¹ *Bk. of Fees*, 934.
² *Feud. Aids*, iv, 15. Cf. Boughton, above, p. 79.
³ *Cott. MSS. Tib. E. v*, fol. 68.
⁴ *Pope Nich. Tax.* (Rec. Com.), 55.
⁵ *Valor Eccles.* (Rec. Com.), iv, 319.
⁶ *Pat.* 35 Hen. VIII, pt. iii, m. 6.
⁷ *Ibid.* pt. xviii, m. 43.
⁸ *V.C.H. Northants.* i, 328.
⁹ *Feet of F. Northants.* 49 Hen. III, no. 848.
¹⁰ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), xx, 15.
¹¹ *Ibid.* lii, 69.
¹² *V.C.H. Northants.* i, 354.
¹³ *Feet of F. Northants.* 11 Hen. III, no. 147.
¹⁴ *V.C.H. Northants.* i, 325.
¹⁵ *Ibid.* i, 328.
¹⁶ *G.E.C. Peerage*, viii, 169.
¹⁷ *Feud. Aids*, 13, 15.

¹⁸ *Pat.* 4 Hen. VII, pt. i, m. 31.
¹⁹ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), cccclxxxvii, 35.
²⁰ *Bridges, Northants.* i, 465.
²¹ *V.C.H. Northants.* i, 325.
²² *Ibid.* i, 379.
²³ *Cott. MSS. Tib. E. v*, fol. 71 d.
²⁴ *Ibid.* fol. 70.
²⁵ *Feet of F. Northants.* 6 John, no. 183; *Pipe R. Northants.* 6 John, m. 11 d.
²⁶ *Feud. Aids*, iv, 15.
²⁷ *Cott. MS. Tib. E. v*, fol. 70; *Bk. of Fees*, 939.
²⁸ *Cott. MS. Tib. E. v*, fol. 69 d.
²⁹ *Feud. Aids*, iv, 24.
³⁰ *Hund. R.* (Rec. Com.), ii, 13.
³¹ *Feud. Aids*, iv, 15.
³² *Bridges, Northants.* i, 564.
³³ *Feud. Aids*, iv, 36.
³⁴ *Anct. D.* (P.R.O.), A. 8472.

³⁵ *Ibid.* A. 8345.
³⁶ *Pat.* 4 Hen. VII, pt. i, m. 31.
³⁷ *Feet of F. Northants.* Hil. 1 & 2 Edw. VI.
³⁸ *P.C.C.* 37 Arundell.
³⁹ *Chan. Proc. Eliz. T. 2*, no. 53. Anne's son Ralph persuaded her to make a deed of gift to him of all her goods and converted them to his own use.
⁴⁰ *Com. Pleas. Recov. R. Hil.* 43 Eliz. m. 2.
⁴¹ *M.I.* in Spratton Church.
⁴² *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), cccclxxxvii, 35. William Knighton also held lands in Little Creaton of Cornelius Wesleyas of his manor of Dodford.
⁴³ *Com. Pleas. Recov. R. Trin.* 1651, m. 13 d.
⁴⁴ *Ibid.* 17 Chas. II, m. 1.

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his wife conveyed it to Thomas Hanbury.¹ There is no further mention of it until 1763, when Mary Hindman, widow, and Josiah Hindman were in possession;² they alienated it two years later to Francis Beynon,³ patron of the church, from whom it passed to his grandson Francis Beynon Hackett, holding it in 1816.⁴ Baker, writing in 1820, calls it 'a considerable estate'⁵ and makes no mention of the manor, of which there is no further trace.

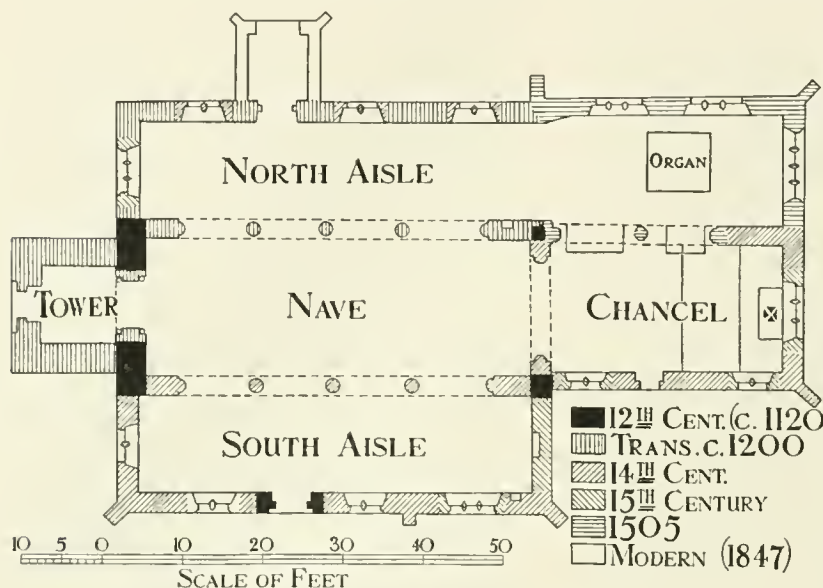
The other half fee by 1428 was divided equally between Agnes Compworth, the heir of John Wattes, and John Tybessore⁶ but was probably afterwards acquired in its entirety by William Gosage whose

chancel, 29 ft. by 15 ft., with north chapel its full length 14 ft. wide, clerestoried nave of four bays, 47 ft. 10 in. by 17 ft., with north and south aisles, 12 ft. wide, north porch and embattled west tower, 9 ft. 3 in. square, all these measurements being internal. The tower is surmounted by a spire, and is a prominent landmark.

The building is faced throughout with wrought ironstone¹⁴ in irregular courses, and except the tower has plain parapets and low-pitched leaded roofs.

The earliest church was erected about 1120 and had an aisleless nave covering the same area as at present, the west wall and south-east angle of which remain.

The western angles of this early nave stand free about 3 ft. north and south of the tower, but less of the south-east angle is now visible. A rounded moulding with double quirk, which ran round the nave at a height of about 6 ft., still remains at the west end and at the south-east angle, and the original south doorway has been moved outward to its present position. About 1195 the lower part of the tower was built,¹⁵ a doorway being made into it from the nave, and a north aisle added. The upper stages of the tower are rather later in date, showing a well-developed lancet style, but with intervals the work may have extended continuously down to about 1215-20. In the 14th century a new chancel



PLAN OF SPRATTON CHURCH

daughter carried it in marriage to William Cope, who held it in 1488; it was then worth £8 a year.⁷ It passed to John Cope, whose widow Anne, in 1510, left the manor to trustees to provide a portion for Anne, daughter and heir of Edward Cope, her son, on her marriage with William Lovett or any other son of Thomas Lovett.⁸ On Anne's death in 1513 the manor became the right of her grand-daughter Anne Lovett⁹ but was sold soon after in accordance with the terms of the will; for in 1571 these lands were in the possession of the families of Sprigg, Miller *alias* Brown, and Chapman:¹⁰ the two latter were still freeholders there in 1820,¹¹ but all manorial rights have long since fallen into abeyance.

One virgate of land in Creaton was held in 1086 by Robert of Robert de Buci,¹² and was amalgamated with the land held of Robert de Buci in Boughton and Spratton.¹³

The church of *ST. ANDREW* stands on high ground in the centre of the village and consists of

was built round the former one, which was then pulled down, a south aisle added, and the north aisle remodelled. A clerestory was also added at the same time. In the next century several Perpendicular windows were inserted. The spire and parapet of the tower are also of 15th-century date. The chantry chapel north of the chancel was erected about 1505 by John Chamber. The interior of the church was restored in 1847 by Sir Gilbert Scott, and the north porch rebuilt.¹⁶ The spire was taken down nearly to the base in 1870 and rebuilt.

The chancel has an east window of three lights with modern Perpendicular tracery, and in the south wall are a 14th-century priest's doorway and two Perpendicular two-light windows the jambs of which, however, appear to belong to former 14th-century openings. Below the westernmost of these is a small rectangular low-side window, now blocked, widely splayed inside, the sill of which forms a seat.¹⁷ The 14th-century piscina has been restored; the single sedile is within a

¹ Feet of F. Northants. Mich. 12 Anne.

² Ibid. Hil. 3 Geo. III; Recov. R. Hil.

3 Geo. III, m. 411.

³ Feet of F. Northants. Mich. 6 Geo. III.

⁴ Berry, *Surrey Genealogies*; Recov. R. Hil. 56 Geo. III, m. 328.

⁵ Baker, *Northants.* i, 68.

⁶ *Feud. Aids*, iv, 36.

⁷ Knightley Evidences, cited by Baker,

Northants. i, 66.

⁸ Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), xxviii, 38.

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ Baker, loc. cit.

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² *V.C.H. Northants.* i, 336.

¹³ *Bk. of Fees*, 934. See above, pp. 79,

103.

¹⁴ Mostly from Harleston quarries:

Chs. Archd. N'ton (1849), 244.

¹⁵ The tower is built against the old west

wall without bond.

¹⁶ The line of the roof of the old north porch may still be seen. Bridges mentions north and south porches at the beginning of the 18th century (*Hist. of Northants.* i, 465).

¹⁷ *Assoc. Arch. Soc. Reports*, xxix, 444. The height of the sill above the ground outside is 3 ft. The window is of 14th-century date.



SPRATTON CHURCH, FROM THE NORTH-EAST



SPRATTON CHURCH: THE TOMB OF SIR JOHN SWINFORD

flat-arched moulded recess. The first 7 ft. of the north wall from the east are blank, beyond which the chancel is open to the chapel (now used as an organ-chamber and vestry) by an early-16th-century arcade of two pointed arches with octagonal pillar and corresponding responds. The 14th-century chancel arch is of two chamfered orders, the inner on half octagonal responds with moulded capitals. The chancel roof is modern¹ and the walls, as elsewhere internally, are plastered.

The late-12th-century north nave arcade consists of four semicircular arches of two orders, the outer square and the inner chamfered, springing from circular pillars with carved capitals, square moulded abaci, and circular moulded bases: the responds are of similar type. Nail-head ornament occurs in the angle foliage of the capital of the west respond, but not elsewhere. The pillars of the 14th-century south arcade are also circular, with circular moulded capitals and bases, and support pointed arches of two chamfered orders. The old south doorway, moved outward when the aisle was erected, has a semicircular arch of two orders, the outer with chevron ornament resting on angle shafts with cushion capitals and moulded bases, and the inner with a round moulding carried down the jambs below the capitals.² The later north doorway is of Transitional Norman character with semicircular arch of two square orders and label on moulded imposts, with outer angle shafts, and inner chamfered jambs. The shafts have moulded bases and capitals with early foliage.

The south aisle has diagonal angle buttresses of two stages and a 14th-century moulded string all round at sill level. The west window and two in the south wall are of two trefoiled lights with quatrefoil in the head, one being modern and another much restored. The 15th-century easternmost window in the south wall is of three cinquefoiled lights with four-centred head: when it was inserted the east wall was either rebuilt or much altered, a reredos for the aisle altar in the form of an arched recess with crocketed head and flanking pinnacles being substituted for the formerly existing window. Two moulded corbels, one on each side of the reredos are of 14th-century date, as is the piscina in the south wall. Farther west are two moulded wall recesses of the same period, the arches of which spring from short shafts with moulded capitals and bases and are enriched with ball-flower.

The north aisle is without buttresses and does not appear to have been rebuilt, but the three two-light windows in its north wall are 14th-century insertions, while that at the west end is a four-centred Perpendicular opening of three cinquefoiled lights. In the north wall is a restored 14th-century recess, and at the east end in the usual position a piscina serving the north aisle altar.

There are four clerestory windows on each side, but three on the south and two on the north are 15th-century insertions³ in the 14th-century wall, and break the moulding of the parapet: they are four-centred and of two lights. The three remaining openings are square-headed in the 14th-century style, but date only from 1847. The 15th-century nave roof is of five bays, with

plain oak principals on stone corbels. The roof of the north aisle, which is a continuation of that of the chantry chapel, has been restored. The chapel has a wide four-light east window with plain Perpendicular tracery, and two plain four-centred windows of three lights on the north side.

The tower is of three main stages, the lower part on the north and south being blank, but on the west is again divided by strings, making five stages in all on that side. The semicircular west doorway is decorated with chevron ornament and grotesque heads in the label and above it is an arcade of three round arches, over which an arcade of pointed arches is taken round the tower, five on each side. In the bell-chamber stage the two middle openings in an arcade of four pointed arches are pierced and recessed within a semicircular containing arch, but the arcade is not continued to the angles, which form flat clasping buttresses. Nearly all the shafts of the lower pointed arcade, as well as the bell-chamber windows, are new, but though much restored in places the upper part of the tower is still a very interesting example of early-13th-century work. The battlemented parapet with cross œillets is built above the original corbel table of heads, and the spire has ribbed angles and a single set of lights on its cardinal faces. The semicircular arch to the tower from the nave is of a single square order, the shafted jambs having scalloped capitals and moulded bases: above it is a tall round-headed window originally above the nave roof, but now blocked. There is no vice. The floor of the tower is two steps above that of the nave.

The 13th-century font has an octagonal bowl with round-headed trefoil arcading on a plain pedestal and chamfered plinth.

The pulpit and chancel screen are modern.

Below the westernmost arch north of the chancel is a panelled table tomb with the alabaster effigy of Sir John Swinford (d. 1371) already described,⁴ enclosed by a contemporary iron grille, and under the eastern arch a later tomb with panelled sides containing blank shields within quatrefoils, upon which was formerly a wooden effigy. In the floor of the chapel, now in part covered by the organ, is a slab with the brass figures of Robert Parnell (d. 1464) and Joan his wife, with their children below.⁵ There is also a brass plate on the floor of the chapel to Edward Twigden (d. 1614) and Ann his wife,⁶ but no other monuments older than the 18th century remain.

There are five bells in the tower, cast in 1685 by Henry and Matthew Bagley of Chacombe.⁷ The frame was repaired in 1886, in which year a clock was erected. In 1930 the oak frame was replaced by one of steel; two of the bells were recast and three were quarter-turned and retuned.

The plate consists of two cups of 1790, a paten of 1839, a flagon of 1868, and a silver-plated alms basin. There are also a pewter flagon and a pewter plate.⁸

The registers before 1812 are as follows: (i) baptisms, marriages, and burials 1538-1652; (ii) baptisms and burials 1737-1801; (iii) baptisms and burials (1802-12; (iv) marriages 1754-85; (v) marriages 1786-1813.

¹ The tabling of a former high-pitched roof remains on the east gable of the nave.

² The inner order has a moulded capital on the east and a carved capital on the west side.

³ There is also a blocked 15th-century window over the chancel arch.

⁴ *V.C.H. Northants.* i, 407. A more

detailed description is given in Hartshorn's *Recumbent Mon. Effigies of Northants.* (1876), 33-4. The tomb was elaborately painted and gilt, but the tinctures of the shields are now nearly obliterated.

⁵ Described and figured in Hudson's *Brasses of Northants.* (1853). The head and shoulders of the man are gone: he is

in civilian costume with rosary. The woman wears a veiled head-dress.

⁶ She died in the same year, leaving three daughters.

⁷ North, *Ch. Bells of Northants.* 399, where the inscriptions are given. In 1552 there were three bells and a sanctus bell.

⁸ Markham, *Ch. Plate of Northants.* 260.

A HISTORY OF NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

On the south side of the church is a churchyard cross consisting of a tall and slender octagonal shaft set in a square socket on two plain steps. The shaft slightly tapers and at the top is a tenon which originally fitted the head or cross arms.¹

The church of Spratton, with 1 acre of land called Overebrech, was bestowed on St. James's Abbey,

among them being meadows called Bromhillwell and Pyndersmead.⁷ About this date Simon son of Simon de Montacute, lord of Little Creton manor, claimed the advowson of Spratton Church but was bought off by the abbot, Adam Kelmersh, for 20 marks.⁸ The rectory and vicarage were valued at £10 13s. 4d. and £4 13s. 4d. respectively in 1291,⁹ and in 1309 the

ordination of the vicarage was confirmed in great detail by the Bishop of Lincoln.¹⁰ In 1312 Edward II tried to dispossess the abbey of the advowson on the ground that the church had been appropriated without licence, but the abbot proved that the advowson was appendant to the honor of Leicester and showed a legal appropriation in the reign of Henry III,¹¹ and he therefore obtained a confirmation of Edward II in 1316.¹² In 1535 the vicarage was rated at £15 and the rectory was leased out for a rent of £14,¹³ of which a pension of 13s. 4d. paid to Lincoln Church was deducted.¹⁴ After the dissolution of the abbey in 1538¹⁵ the rectory and advowson were bestowed upon Anthony Stringer in 1543,¹⁶ who in the same year obtained licence to alienate them to Laurence Manley of Northampton.¹⁷ The latter soon afterwards obtained one moiety of Maxe's Manor and also Downhall Manor, which with the rectory and advowson remained in the Manley family for over 100 years, but during the last quarter of the 17th century the Manleys parted with all their possessions in Spratton, the rectory and advowson being sold separately. Between 1673 and 1684 Michael Bateman purchased the advowson from Lawrence Manley junior and Mary his wife and John Manley, clerk,¹⁸



SPRATTON CHURCH: THE WEST DOORWAY

Northampton, by Simon de Creton between 1180 and 1205,² and these gifts were confirmed by his grandson Simon in 1235,³ and by the latter's *ADVOUSON* grandson John in 1311.⁴ In 1266

Richard Gravesend, Bishop of Lincoln, enabled the abbey to appropriate the church in view of the great claims on the hospitality of the monks.⁵ In 1270, after the institution of Giles le Rous, Archdeacon of Northampton, to the church of Spratton,⁶ certain tithes and lands were allotted to the abbey,

and presented hisson Royle Bateman to the church.¹⁹ The patronage descended to Royle, who died in 1733 leaving two daughters and co-heirs, Anne the wife of Giles Watson and Elizabeth the wife of Benjamin Okell.²⁰ As Anne died childless in 1762, the advowson vested entirely in her sister, and the latter's only child Elizabeth, who married Francis Beynon.²¹ By his will dated 1774 Francis Beynon left the advowson of Spratton to his only surviving child Elizabeth Anne, the wife of Andrew Hackett of Moxhull, Warwickshire, with

¹ Markham, *Crosses of Northants.* 106. The total height is 12 ft. 3 in., the shaft alone 9 ft. 11 in. The cross is probably of 14th-century date.

² Cott. MS. Tib. E. v, fols. 68 d, 71 d.

³ Ibid. fol. 70; Feet of F. Northants. 19 Hen. III, no. 342.

⁴ Cott. MS. Tib. E. v, fol. 68 d.

⁵ Ibid. fols. 70 d, 71 d.

⁶ Harl. MS. 6950.

⁷ Cott. MS. Tib. E. v, fol. 70 d.

⁸ Ibid. fol. 70.

⁹ *Pope Nich. Tax.* (Rec. Com.), 40.

¹⁰ Cott. MS. Tib. E. v, fol. 71.

¹¹ De Banco R. 190, m. 6; Cott. MS. Tib. E. v, fol. 71 d, 72.

¹² *Cal. Pat.* 1313-17, p. 524.

¹³ *Valor Eccles.* (Rec. Com.), iv, 323.

¹⁴ Ibid. iv, 319.

¹⁵ *L. & P. Hen. VIII*, xiii (2), 183.

¹⁶ Pat. 35 Hen. VIII, pt. vii, m. 28.

¹⁷ Ibid. pt. ii, m. 18.

¹⁸ *Recov. R. Trin.* 25 Chas. II, m. 12.

¹⁹ *Inst. Bks.* (P.R.O.).

²⁰ The mural monuments in Spratton church.

²¹ Berry, *Surrey Genealogies*, ii.

reversion to her son Andrew Hackett junior and his children. Francis Beynon died shortly after, in 1778, and the advowson was inherited by Elizabeth Anne Hackett,¹ and passed to her second but eldest surviving son, Francis Beynon Hackett, who was patron in 1816.² Before 1820 the patronage of the church was purchased of F. B. Hackett by John Bartlett of Buckingham,³ in whom it was still vested in 1874,⁴ but it was resold between that date and 1903 when Mr. H. Roberts of London owned the presentation and by 1906 it was in the possession of the Rev. Humphrey Gordon Roberts Hays-Boyd of Towend, Symington, who in 1925 transferred it to the Bishop of Peterborough.

After 1673 the rectory was severed from the advowson and was sold in portions, half apparently being bought from the Manleys by Arthur Goodday,⁵ as in 1695 it belonged to William Goodday, probably his son.⁶ Another quarter was vested in Laurence Hadden, Elizabeth his wife and others in 1690,⁷ but was afterwards purchased by William Goodday who with Mary his wife, held $\frac{3}{4}$ of the rectory in 1706.⁸ On William's death in 1715 his right to the rectory was inherited by John his son who died in 1755,⁹ leaving two daughters and co-heirs, Millicent the wife of the Rev. Thomas Hide and Anne the wife of John Walker, who at the inclosure of part of the parish in 1765 were each certified to hold $\frac{3}{8}$ of the great tithes, the remaining $\frac{2}{8}$ or $\frac{1}{4}$ being the property of Francis Beynon, patron of the vicarage.¹⁰ Millicent Hide seems to have died without issue, for her share passed to her sister's daughters Anne the wife of Thomas Beet, of Great Houghton, and Rebecca, who held the lands in 1793¹¹ and by 1820 they were vested in the representatives of the late Thomas Beet and of the Rev. George Beet of Harpole.¹² The other lands allotted to Francis Beynon Hackett with the advowson to Francis Beynon Hackett who held them in 1820.¹³

By his will dated 1505 John Chambers left a messuage called the Bedehouse and other property in Spratton and Holdenby to found a chantry in the chapel on the north side of the chancel lately rebuilt

by him; prayers were to be offered up for the souls of his brother William, his wife Elizabeth, his parents, and of himself.¹⁴ In 1534 and 1545 the lands belonging to it were worth £5,¹⁵ and at its dissolution in 1548 £5 12s. a year, paid to the priest as salary.¹⁶ Silvester Taverner of London and Joseph Hinde obtained the property,¹⁷ and they doubtless sold it afterwards in small portions.

The Town and Charity Estate. It *CHARITIES* appears by a decree of the Commissioners for Charitable Uses issued in the 16th year of King Charles II that one John Pearson bequeathed £10 for the poor, that a cottage and 3 a. 1 r. of land had been given for the reparation of the church, that the rents of certain other lands had been applied for the reparation of the highways and bridges, and that several sums of money had been given for the relief of the poor. In a deed dated 7 December 1694 it is stated that £50 had been bequeathed by one Arthur Goodday towards binding poor children apprentices. The sums of money mentioned were laid out in the purchase of land, and the property now consists of 29 a. 0 r. 25½ p. let in allotments. A house and garden acquired at the same time have since been sold and the proceeds invested, the whole producing about £75.

An Order of the Charity Commissioners dated 28 September 1909 directed that three-quarters of the net income should form the endowment of the Town Charity and the remaining quarter the endowment of the Church Charity. The Town Charity is administered by a body of trustees and the Church Charity by the vicar and churchwardens and additional trustees.

Thomas Hill by his will proved in P.R. 16 August 1921 gave £100, the income to be applied by the vicar and churchwardens in the purchase of coal for the poor, the charity to be called 'Thomas and Sarah Hill's Charity'. The money was invested and produces about £5 yearly.

The vicar of Spratton receives annually £30 from the trustees of Sir Edward Nicoll's Charity, which is described under the parish of Kettering.

WESTON FAVELL

Westone (xi cent.); Weston Fauvelle (xiii cent.).

Weston Favell is a large parish, covering an area of nearly 2,000 acres and, since 1900, including part of the parish of Abington. Owing to the expansion of Northampton the population of the ecclesiastical parish had risen to 1,094 in 1931. Much of the land consists of permanent pasture, but cereals and beans are grown. The lower part of the parish, which lies by the River Nene, the southern boundary, is covered with trees which border the lane ascending from the Billing Road to the village, but the northern part, which lies much higher up, is more open in character although broken by one or two spinneys. The north of the parish is crossed by the main road from Northampton to Kettering, while the Wellingborough road, off which lies the village, divides the upper and lower parts. Two roads lead off

the highway to the centre of the village where stands the church, one of them forming the main street of the village, with a public house and Methodist chapel, while the other skirts the high stone wall which inclosed the grounds of where the Ekins's mansion formerly stood, and passes by the small cemetery and picturesque group of thatched cottages with stone mullioned windows opposite the church. There are several good stone houses clustered round the church, while the rectory, a red-brick house built by the Rev. James Hervey just before his death in 1758, stands slightly to the south.

To the north of the parish, just off the Kettering road, lies Weston Favell House, a stone house built by Mr. James Manfield in 1900, with a small park. The ground reaches here an altitude of 400 ft., and a fine view is obtained over the sloping fields of the Nene

¹ Priv. Act 22 Geo. III, cap. 25.

² Recov. R. Hil. 56 Geo. III, m. 328;

Close R. 58 Geo. III, pt. 33, m. 11.

³ Baker, *Northants.* i, 68.

⁴ Whellan, *Northants.* 1874.

⁵ Feet of Fines, Northants. Trin. 28 Chas. II.

⁶ Recov. R. East. 7 Will. III, m. 166.

⁷ Feet of Fines, Northants. East.

7 Will. III. ⁸ Ibid. Trin. 5 Anne.

⁹ *Harl. Soc. Publ.* xiv, 663.

¹⁰ Priv. Act 5 Geo. III, cap. 43.

¹¹ Recov. R. Hil. 33 Geo. III, m. 333.

¹² Baker, *Northants.* i, 65, 68.

¹³ Ibid.

¹⁴ Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), xx, 15.

¹⁵ *Valor Eccles.* (Rec. Com.), iv, 323; Composition Books, iii, 53.

¹⁶ Chant. Cert., Northants. 36, no. 13;

ibid. 35, no. 5.

¹⁷ Pat. R. 2 Edw. VI, pt. iii, m. 22.

A HISTORY OF NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

Valley and of the rising land beyond. From 400 ft. the ground declines to 300 near the Weston Favell Convalescent Home, and from this point there is a gradual descent to the River Nene on which the mill, formerly belonging to the Ekins, is placed, the land there not rising above 200 ft.

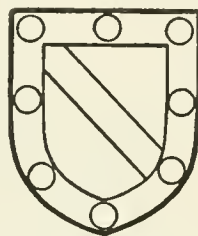
In the upper part of the parish is a field formerly known as Spelhoe, from which the hundred took its name, but now called Stocking.

John Cole, bookseller and antiquary, was born at Weston Favell in 1792, and, after living at Lincoln, Hull, and Scarborough, opened a shop in the Market Square, Northampton, about 1830, and after many vicissitudes of fortune died in 1848.¹

In 1086 the overlordship of *WESTON MANORS (FAVELL)* was vested in the Count of Mortain² and passed with that of Overstone (q.v.) through the families of Mundeville and d'Avranches into the possession of the Crevecoeurs, Robert being overlord in 1284.³ After this date the overlordship may have been acquired by John de Bois who was holding under Robert Crevecoeur in 1284⁴ and whose representative William la Zouche⁵ was overlord in 1336.⁶ The Zouches possibly alienated to the Abbots of Pipewell who appear as the overlords from 1483 until 1509.⁷ John de Bois had inherited as younger, but eldest surviving, son of Ernald de Bois⁸ who held $\frac{2}{3}$ of a small fee of Mortain in Weston in 1242.⁹ This estate had been returned in 1236 as of the fee of Nicholas de Haversham.¹⁰ This Nicholas was succeeded by a son Nicholas,¹¹ whose heir was intermediary between John de Bois and the actual lord of the manor, John Favell, in 1284.¹² The heir in question was his daughter Maud, who married Sir James de la Plaunche, and their son Sir William de la Plaunche held Weston under Sir William la Zouche in 1336.¹³ As late as 1570 the manor was said to be held of 'the heir of Nicholas de Haversham',¹⁴ but this was probably an empty formula.

The land of the Count of Mortain was divided into two portions at the Domesday Survey, one of which, consisting of 3 hides, was held of him by Walter,¹⁵ and the other 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ hides in extent was held by the Count himself.¹⁶ These two portions probably coalesced to form the 4 hides held by Richard de Weston in the 12th century,¹⁷ but did not long remain intact as on the death of Richard the estate was divided between Ralph Griffin of Gumley, Leicestershire, the husband of Richard's sister Alice,¹⁸ and John Favell of Walcot who probably married another sister and co-heir and from whom Weston derived its additional name of Favell. The moiety held by John Favell, known as *WESTON FAVELL MANOR*, was confiscated by King John on account of his adherence to the Barons,¹⁹

but was restored by Henry III in 1216²⁰ and remained in the Favell family, whose pedigree has been traced under Walcot in Barnack,²¹ until on the death of Sir William Favell without heirs, c. 1316, it passed into the



FAVELL. Or a bend gules and a border sable bezanty.



GRIFFIN. Sable a griffin argent with beak and forelegs or.

Griffin family by the marriage of Elizabeth his sister with Sir John Griffin,²² the great-grandson of Ralph above-mentioned, and lord of the other moiety of Weston. The manor, thus reunited, remained vested in the Griffin family for many generations,²³ but by the marriage of Thomas, Sir John's grandson, with Elizabeth the daughter and ultimate heir of Sir Warine Latimer, the Griffins acquired the manor of Braybrook,²⁴ which then became the seat of the family. By a settlement made in 1528 when Sir Thomas Griffin was lord of the manor, Weston was to pass after his death to his son and heir Richard.²⁵ Richard, however, died during his father's lifetime leaving an only child Mary, the wife of Thomas Markham of Ollerton, Notts.,²⁶ and a fresh settlement was made in 1561²⁷ by which Mary and Thomas Markham released all their right in the manor to Sir Thomas Griffin: the latter died in 1566, when Weston passed to his son Thomas of unsound mind,²⁸ for whom it was held in trust by the executors of Sir Thomas's will, of whom Edward Griffin was one, and a fresh arrangement was made the following year by which the reversion of the manor was settled in Mary and Thomas Markham.²⁹ Thomas Griffin, the idiot, dying without issue, Weston Favell passed to Mary while Braybrook was inherited by Edward.³⁰ Thus the connexion between the two manors was severed, and Weston was apparently settled on Sir Griffin Markham, son of Mary, but was confiscated by James I in 1603 on the attainder of Sir Griffin for implication in the Bye plot,³¹ and although Sir Griffin was remanded his estates were not restored and Weston was bestowed on Sir John Harrington in 1604.³² Mary Markham, however, appears to have obtained a restitution of the manor for in 1608 she alienated it to Henry Travell³³ by whom it was sold in 1616 to Alexander Ekins.³⁴ The latter was succeeded by his son and

¹ *Dict. Nat. Biog.*

² *V.C.H. Northants.* i, 328.

³ *Feud. Aids.* iv, 16.

⁴ *Ibid.*; *Bk. of Fees*, 936.

⁵ Dugdale, *Baronage*, i, 690; Wrottesley, *Peds. from Plea Rolls*, 166.

⁶ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 10 Edw. III (1st nos.), no. 59.

⁷ *Ibid.* 22 Edw. IV, no. 52; *ibid.* (Ser. 2), v, 106; *ibid.* (Ser. 2), xxiv, 37.

⁸ *Assize R.* 619, m. 13 d.

⁹ *Bk. of Fees*, 936.

¹⁰ *Ibid.* 498, 501.

¹¹ *V.C.H. Bucks.* iv, 368.

¹² *Feud. Aids.* iv, 16.

¹³ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* vii, no. 709.

¹⁴ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), cliii, 61.

¹⁵ *V.C.H. Northants.* i, 328.

¹⁶ *Ibid.* 321. ¹⁷ *Ibid.* 381.

¹⁸ *Sloane Chart.* xxxii, 17.

¹⁹ *Rot. Litt. Claus.* (Rec. Com.), i, 261.

²⁰ *Ibid.* 331.

²¹ *V.C.H. Northants.* ii, 466-7.

²² *Feud. Aids.* iv, 23; Baker, *Northants.* i, 72-3.

²³ *Feud. Aids.* iv, 37; *Chan. Inq. p.m.*

23 Hen. VI, no. 19; *ibid.* 25 Hen. VI,

no. 40.

²⁴ Metcalfe, *Visitations of Northants.* 23;

G.E.C. *Peerage* (1st ed.), v, 21 n.

²⁵ Feet of F. Northants, Mich. 20 Hen.

VIII.

²⁶ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), cxlv, 51.

²⁷ Feet of F. Northants. Hil. 4 Eliz.; Baker, *Northants.* i, 526.

²⁸ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), cxlv, 51.

²⁹ Feet of F. Northants. Trin. 9 Eliz.; Bk. of Deeds belonging to Ishams of Lamport.

³⁰ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), cliii, 61; G.E.C. *Peerage* (1st ed.), v, 21 n.

³¹ *Dict. Nat. Biog.*

³² Pat. 2 Jas. I, pt. ii.

³³ Baker, *Northants.* i, 72; Feet of F. Northants. East. 5 Jas. I.

³⁴ *Ibid.* Trin. 14 Jas. I.



WESTON FAVELL CHURCH: THE TOWER, FROM THE NORTH-WEST



WESTON FAVELL CHURCH: NEEDLEWORK PANEL

grandson, both of the name of Alexander,¹ the second of whom acquired Tyringham's Manor in Weston Favell by his marriage with Rebecca one of the daughters and co-heirs of Martin Hervey.² In 1664 he petitioned the King for a letter to the mayor and aldermen of Northampton, to elect him to the stewardship of the corporation, alleging that he lost most of his estates during the war for adherence to the sovereign,³ and in 1666 he was appointed deputy to James Earl of Northampton, Master of his Majesty's Leash, with authority to take as many greyhounds within 10 miles of Weston Favell as he should think fit.⁴ Alexander died in 1676,⁵ leaving Weston to his son Hervey Ekins, Sheriff of Northamptonshire in 1681, upon whose death in 1730 the manors were inherited by Rebecca, his only surviving child, wife of Justinian Ekins, her cousin.⁶ As Rebecca died without issue, Justinian settled the estate on his nephews Hervey Ekins, Justinian, William, and Robert Kerry respectively in tail male⁷ but all dying without issue within a few years of one another,⁸ the manors reverted to Elizabeth Ellen, the widow of Hervey Ekins, nephew of Justinian, who demised them to trustees to be sold for the benefit of the representatives of her husband's sisters.⁹ In accordance with the terms of her will, Weston was sold in 1814 for £23,970, the two principal farms being purchased by Edward Bouverie of Delapré Abbey¹⁰ from whom they have descended to Miss Bouverie, now of Hardingstone,¹¹ while the manors were acquired by Thomas Butcher, solicitor, of Northampton. After this date the manorial rights appear to have lapsed; for, although in 1874 Mr. H. B. Whitworth is described as lord of the manor,¹² there is no trace of them at the present day.

One hide in Weston in 1086 was appendant to the manor of Torp (Kingsthorpe), part of the ancient demesne of the Crown,¹³ and was so held in the 12th century.¹⁴ It was probably comprised in the estate held by Alan de Stokes who died in 1393 seised of 5 mesuages, 1½ carucate of land in Weston Favell held of the King in chief, and for 8d. yearly paid to Kingsthorpe Manor. Alan left two nieces as his heirs, Maud wife of William Smith and Agnes wife of Thomas Knight,¹⁵ but there is no further mention of this estate. It is possible that it reappears in *TYRINGHAM'S MANOR*. John Tyringham of London and Northampton, lord of the manor of Tyringham, Bucks.,¹⁶ in his will, dated 12 July 1484, mentions his nephew Thomas Tyringham of Weston and his daughters, of whom Elizabeth is named;¹⁷ but this manor is first mentioned by this



TYRINGHAM. *Azure a saltire engrailed argent.*

name in 1509 as a moiety held by Richard Higham and Anne his wife who in that year alienated it to Thomas Edon.¹⁸ This Anne was apparently one of the daughters and co-heirs of Sir William Chamberlain, who had held the manor; her sister Mary had married John Higham.¹⁹ A moiety was in the possession of Richard Edon in 1523.²⁰ Thomas Edon with Griselda his wife held, apparently, the whole manor in 1537,²¹ and conveyed it in 1546 to John Davenport.²² The latter with Anne his wife in 1555 sold their right in the manor to Edmund Tyringham of Stanton Wyville, Leicestershire,²³ probably a descendant of the original owners. Edmund was succeeded by his son Francis,²⁴ who alienated this estate in 1615 to Thomas Pentlowe,²⁵ and when the latter in 1620 conveyed it to Stephen Hervey Joseph Tyringham the son of Francis released any claim he might have in the manor.²⁶ In 1635 Stephen Hervey and Elizabeth his wife settled it on their son Martin on his marriage with Rebecca the daughter of George Strode,²⁷ and on Martin's death before 1670 it was inherited by his three daughters, of whom Rebecca the second daughter acquired her other sisters' moieties,²⁸ and brought the manor into the family of her husband Alexander Ekins, lord of the principal manor of Weston, with which Tyringham's Manor was afterwards held.

In addition to the Count of Mortain's land, Gunfrid de Cioches had ½ virgate in Weston in 1086 which was held of him by John.²⁹ This small estate passed to the Prestons of Little Billing (q.v.), who held that manor of the same overlord, and is found in their possession in 1273,³⁰ but after that date no further mention has been found of this land.

Weston Favell appears to have possessed many mills at one time, and in 1562 four are mentioned³¹ while the number had increased to six in 1567.³² In 1580 Edward Griffin brought an action against William Rainford, Henry Nelson and his wife for arrears of rent due from two water-mills, one a corn-mill and the other a fulling-mill, and for damage done to the groundwork and floodgates of the mills.³³ A mill was purchased by George Spokes at the sale of the Ekins estate in 1814³⁴ and is apparently the one situated on the Nene at the present day.

The church of *ST. PETER* consists of *CHURCH* chancel, 29 ft. 3 in. by 16 ft. 4 in., with north vestry and organ-chamber, nave of three bays, 41 ft. 6 in. by 22 ft., north aisle, 13 ft. 6 in. wide, north and south porches, and west tower, 9 ft. 6 in. square, all these measurements being internal.

The tower is of late-12th-century date, of Transitional Norman character, and the chancel belongs mainly to the first half of the 13th century, being a rebuilding at that time of a 12th-century chancel, the priest's doorway of which was retained. This doorway is earlier than the tower and indicates the existence of

¹ Feet of F. Northants. Trin. 6 Chas. I; *ibid.* Hil. 23 Chas. I.

² Metcalfe, *Visitations of Northants.* i, 178-9.

³ *Cal. S.P. Dom.* 1664-5, p. 227; *Cal. of Com. for Compounding*, iii, 2091.

⁴ *Gents. Mag.* lxxiii (i), 195.

⁵ From mural monument in church.

⁶ Baker, *Northants.* i, 73.

⁷ *Ibid.*

⁸ P.C.C. 492 Stowe.

⁹ P.C.C. 776 Pitt.

¹⁰ Baker, *Northants.* i, 73.

¹¹ Back, *Commissioners*, ii, 7.

¹² Whellan, *Northants.*

¹³ *F.C.H. Northants.* i, 306.

¹⁴ *Ibid.* i, 381.

¹⁵ Chan. Inq. p.m. 18 Rich. II, no. 37.

¹⁶ *F.C.H. Bucks.* iv, 483.

¹⁷ P.C.C. Logge 10.

¹⁸ Feet of F. Div. Co. Mich. 1 Hen. VIII; E. Chan. Proc. bde. 503, no. 10.

¹⁹ Early Chan. Proc. 337, nos. 73-6.

²⁰ Bridges, *Northants.* i, 468.

²¹ Feet of F. Northants. Mich. 29 Hen. VIII.

²² *Ibid.* Mich. 38 Hen. VIII.

²³ *Ibid.* Mich. 2 & 3 P. and M.

²⁴ Metcalfe, *Visitations of Northants.*

144-5.

²⁵ Notes of F. Northants. Trin. 13 Jas. I.

²⁶ Feet of F. Northants. East. 18 Jas. I.

²⁷ *Ibid.* Div. Co. Mich. 11 Chas. I;

Metcalfe, *Visitations of Northants.* 98-9;

Baker, *Northants.* i, 75.

²⁸ Feet of F. Northants. Mich. 22 Chas.

II. ²⁹ *F.C.H. Northants.* i, 348.

³⁰ Chan. Inq. p.m. 2 Edw. I, no. 25.

³¹ Feet of F. Div. Co. Hil. 4 Eliz.

³² Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), cxlv, 51.

³³ Chan. Proc. (Ser. 2), bde. 210, no. 62.

³⁴ Baker, *Northants.* i, 72.

A HISTORY OF NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

a mid-12th-century building. The north aisle dates only from 1881 but takes the place of a former aisle which was injured by the fall of the spire in 1725¹ and was afterwards taken down. The spire has never been rebuilt, but its base, covered with a low pyramidal roof, still remains, forming a rather unusual feature. In pulling down the north wall of the nave in 1881, preparatory to rebuilding the new aisle, a large number of stones of various periods were found, some in the window-jambs, others at the bottom of the footings and in other parts of the walls. These included a Transitional Norman capital and base,² considerably injured, part of a lancet window-head,³ portions of circular pillars, probably from a former arcade of late-12th-century date, and a quantity of 15th-century tracery.⁴ From the presence of these fragments in the wall it has been surmised that the nave as it then was had been wholly rebuilt since the 15th century, possibly in 1725, though there is apparently no documentary evidence of this.⁵ In 1851 the chancel was restored,⁶ in 1869 the nave was re-roofed, the chancel arch rebuilt, and the south porch restored, and in 1892 the north porch was added. There was a general restoration in 1925.

The tower and chancel are of rubble with dressed quoins, and all the roofs are covered with slates.⁷ The north aisle and organ-chamber are faced with brown Duston stone.

The chancel is unbuttressed and has a modern east window⁸ of three lancets under a 13th-century hood-mould. The south wall is pierced by an original window of three lancets under a single hood-mould west of the priest's doorway, the portion farther east being blank. The doorway has a semicircular arch of two square orders and hood-mould, with chamfered jambs and imposts. There is a trefoiled piscina recess in the plastered wall, and in the north wall a square-headed aumbry. The wide semicircular chancel arch is of two chamfered orders.

In its present form the nave is modern, with double lancet windows and an arcade of pointed arches on round pillars.

The tower is of four receding stages, and is considerably battered in the upper stage.⁹ It has a plain parapet carried on a corbel table of carved heads, and gargoyles at the western angles. The round-headed west doorway has long been blocked and little or no architectural detail remains: above it in the second stage is a double lancet with head cut from a single stone, but the third stage is blank. The bell-chamber windows are of two widely spaced lancets with separate hood-moulds carried round the tower as a string.¹⁰ The walls are of great thickness in the lower stage and are unbuttressed, but heavy buttresses have been added

at a later time at the junction with the nave. The pointed tower arch is of three square orders, with chamfered imposts and hood-mould.

The font is of 15th-century date, with octagonal panelled bowl, similar to that at Abington, and the oak pulpit is Elizabethan on a modern pedestal: a wrought-iron hour-glass stand has been retained.

The slab in the sanctuary floor which marked the burial-place of the Rev. James Hervey, rector (d. 1758), 'that very pious man and much admired author', is now placed upright in a recess on the north side of the chancel. There are brass floor plates to Elizabeth, wife of Francis Hervey (d. 1642), and Mary, wife of William Hervey (d. 1645), and a number of 18th-century mural tablets. In the vestry is preserved a piece of needlework representing the Last Supper, wrought by the wife of Sir John Holman in 1698, and formerly over the communion table.¹¹

There are five bells, four cast by Henry and Matthew Bagley of Chacombe in 1683, and the tenor by Henry Penn of Peterborough in 1707.¹² In 1552 there were three bells and a sanctus bell.

The plate consists of a silver cup and paten 'the gift of Lucas Ward minister of Weston in ye county of Northampton 1674', and a silver alms dish of 1724 given by Frances Lady Twysden in 1725.¹³

The registers before 1812 are as follows: (i) baptisms 1540-1735, marriages 1545-1735, burials 1540-1678;¹⁴ (ii) baptisms and burials 1735-1812, marriages 1735-53; (iii) marriages 1754-1812. The first volume has been newly bound.

The first mention of Weston Favell *ADVOVSON* church occurs about 1200 when

Richard de Weston bestowed the advowson upon St. Andrew's Priory, Northampton.¹⁵ He, moreover, bequeathed to the Prior and Convent 1 virgate of land in Weston which Godric held, with his palfrey, harness, and saddles, a barn and 10 measures of corn to make wafers, 7 silver spoons, a silver cup with carved handle, and a silver gilt ring.¹⁶ The right of presentation to the church was afterwards contested by John Favell and Ralph Griffin, but decided in favour of the priory in 1233.¹⁷ Sir Hugh Favell the son of John bestowed upon the Prior and Convent a messuage in Weston, to be held by the rectors for the time being,¹⁸ and in 1261, with Richard Griffin, the grandson of the above-mentioned Ralph, confirmed to the priory the advowson, of the gift of their ancestor, Richard de Weston.¹⁹ The church, which was worth £6 in 1291,²⁰ had increased in value to £17 6s. 8d. in 1535.²¹ After the dissolution of St. Andrew's in 1538,²² the advowson was apparently granted to Sir Thomas Brudenell who died seised of it in 1550, when it was inherited by his

¹ Not 1726 as often stated: it was struck by lightning.

² Used in the new north doorway.

³ Used in the window of the organ-chamber and vestry, then erected.

⁴ Letter of Matthew Holden, architect, to Sir Henry Dryden, in Dryden MSS., Northampton Free Library.

⁵ Dryden MSS. as above. The windows on both sides of the nave till 1881 were square-headed, but the sections of their jambs, heads, and mullions in no wise agreed. It may be fairly concluded that the plain oblong nave was built in 1725, or at least between Perpendicular times and that date: *ibid.*

⁶ In 1849 both the chancel and tower arches were closed with galleries and there

was a plaster ceiling: *Chs. Archd. N'ton*, 256. Galleries and ceiling have been removed.

⁷ Except that of the south porch, which has stone slabs.

⁸ The east window in 1849 was 'late and bad Perpendicular': *Chs. Archd. N'ton*, 255. The lancets restore the original design.

⁹ The upper stage is banded with iron, and there are four iron clamps at the south-west angle and one on the north.

¹⁰ The high modern roof now blocks the east bell-chamber window. The line of the old roof is seen above the tower arch from the nave.

¹¹ It is dated 'Weston Favell, December 1698'. Sir John Holman (d. 1698) 'neatly wainscoted the chancel in oak' (Bridges,

i, 469), but his work has not survived.

¹² North, *Chs. Bells of Northants*, 441, where the inscriptions are given. The bells were rehung in 1908. The old framework bore the date 1808.

¹³ Markham, *Ch. Plate of Northants*, 311.

¹⁴ There are no burials recorded between 1678 and 1735.

¹⁵ Cott. MS. Vesp. E. xvii, fol. 55, 54 d.

¹⁶ *Ibid.*

¹⁷ *Rot. Hug. de Welles* (Cant. and York Soc.), ii, 164-5.

¹⁸ Cott. MS. Vesp. E. xvii, fol. 54 d.

¹⁹ *Ibid.* fol. 54.

²⁰ *Pope Nich. Tax.* (Rec. Com.), 40, 43.

²¹ *Valor Eccles.* (Rec. Com.), iv, 324.

²² *V.C.H. Northants*, ii, 108.

son Sir Edmund¹ who in 1573 alienated it to Richard Burbanke.² By 1580 it was in the possession of Robert Gage and Anne his wife, who in that year conveyed it to William Gage and Margaret his wife.³ In 1583 they sold it to Edward Travell and Clara his wife;⁴ the latter in 1593 alienated it to Henry Travell, a brother of Edward, and Elizabeth his wife,⁵ of whom it was purchased three years later by their nephew Robert Travell,⁶ afterwards rector of Weston, who was deprived for non-conformity but restored, on submission, in 1605,⁷ and retained his office until 1640.⁸ The right of presentation then passed, probably by purchase, to Francis Hervey, nephew of the Stephen who acquired Tyingham's Manor in 1620,⁹ and he was succeeded by his son William, patron and rector of Weston, who died in 1736.¹⁰ His son, another William, also patron and rector of the church, died in 1752,¹¹ when the right of presentation devolved on his son James, rector there, and the author of *Meditations among the Tombs*.¹² On his death in 1758, without issue, the advowson ought to have been sold according to the terms of the will of his father,¹³ but an arrangement was arrived at in 1777 by which it passed to his sister Mary and her husband Robert Knight, the rector of Weston,¹⁴ and after their deaths it was inherited by their son Robert Hervey Knight, also rector.¹⁵ It is now in the gift of the Church Association Trust.

The Charities of Hervey and Elizabeth Ekins for education, apprenticing for the poor, and for a sermon, were founded by indentures of lease and release dated

27 February 1704 and augmented by land conveyed by deeds in 1707, 1717, and 1755. The charities are administered by a body of trustees, of *CHARITIES* whom the rector is one, appointed by a Scheme of the Charity Commissioners of 22 December 1874.

By a Determination Order of the Charity Commissioners dated 2 November 1906, £80 Consols out of Stock representing accumulations of income was set aside to provide the endowment of the Poor Charity of Hervey and Elizabeth Ekins and £32 Consols for the endowment of the Ecclesiastical Charity of Hervey and Elizabeth Ekins. The income of the Poor Charity amounting to £2 yearly is distributed in bread on St. Andrew's Day and 16s., being the income of the Ecclesiastical Charity, is paid to the rector for a sermon on that day.

Lady Jane Holman by her will dated in or about the year 1711 gave to the minister and churchwardens a close of land of about 8 acres called Greenway Furze, to pay out of the rents 20s. a year to the minister for a sermon on Good Friday and to distribute the residue to the poor. The land was sold in 1919 and the proceeds invested, producing £37 5s. 2d. yearly in dividends. The charity is administered by the rector and two trustees appointed by the Parish Council in place of the churchwardens. Varying cash payments are made to about fifty poor.

The several sums of Stock are with the Official Trustees of Charitable Funds.

¹ Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), lxxxix, 106.

² Feet of F. Northants. East. 18 Eliz.

³ Ibid. Mich. 22 & 23 Eliz.

⁴ Ibid. Mich. 25 & 26 Eliz.

⁵ Add. Chart. 25181.

⁶ Feet of F. Northants. Hil. 38 Eliz.

⁷ Cal. S.P. Dom. 1603-10, p. 217.

⁸ Bridges, *Northants.* i, 469.

⁹ Feet of F. Northants. Hil. 1659; Inst.

Bks. (P.R.O.); Recov. R. Trin. 28 Chas. II.

¹⁰ Inst. Bks. (P.R.O.); Baker, *Northants.*

i, 75.

¹¹ From mural monuments in church;

P.C.C. 127 Bettesworth.

¹² *Dict. Nat. Biog.*

¹³ Ibid.

¹⁴ Baker, *Northants.* i, 75; Feet of F. Northants. East. 17 Geo. III.

¹⁵ Inst. Bks. (P.R.O.); Whellan, *Northants.*

THE HUNDRED OF HAMFORDSHOE

CONTAINING THE PARISHES OF

GREAT DODDINGTON

HOLCOT

WELLINGBOROUGH

EARLS BARTON

MEARS ASHBY

WILBY

ECTON

SYWELL

THE hundred, which appears in the Geld Roll of 1076 as 'Anduerðeshoh' and in Domesday Book as 'Andferdesho' and 'Hanverdesho', has always contained these eight parishes; and a portion of Hardwick, of which parish the greater part belonged to Orlingbury hundred, was also in this hundred at least as late as 1316.¹ Even in about 1720 a meadow in Hardwick still owed suit and service to Lord Brook's court at Wellingborough.²



HAMFORDSHOE

MAP OF THE HUNDRED

The hundred descended with the manor of Yardley Hastings (q.v.) and was usually coupled with the adjacent hundred of Wymersley. In 1246 the two hundreds were said to be paying 11 marks, whereas they had formerly paid less;³ and in 1329 complaint was made that they used to be farmed for 100s. but twenty years before John de Hastings had raised the farm to £16, to the great oppression of the people.⁴ Complaint was made at the same time against the bailiff of Hamfordshoe that when he had to raise 2s. 6d. from the hundred towards the expenses of the Knights of

the Shire at Parliament he took excessive distraint from the Abbot of Crowland.⁵ Hamfordshoe and Wymersley were held of the Crown by Sir William Compton at the time of his death in 1528 by service of a sparhawk or 2s.⁶

The meeting-place of the hundred in 1565, and probably from the earliest times, was at 'Low Hill', which has been identified by Miss Wake with a mound in Round Hill field on the borders of Mears Ashby, commanding a view of the whole country-side.⁷ By the beginning of the 18th century the hundred court had been removed to Wellingborough.⁸

¹ *V.C.H. Northants.* i, 354, 382; *Feud. Aids*, iv, 17, 27.

² Bridges, *Northants.* ii, 136.

³ Assize R. 614, m. 41 d.

⁴ *Ibid.* 622, m. 7 d.

⁵ *Ibid.* m. 7.

⁶ Bridges, loc. cit.

⁷ *The Place-Names of Northants.* (Engl. P.-N. Soc.), 137.

⁸ Bridges, loc. cit.

GREAT DODDINGTON

Dodintone, Great Dudyngton (xi-xvi cent.).

Great Doddington covers about 1,600 acres. The River Nene forms the south-eastern boundary between Great Doddington and Wollaston. The greatest height in the parish is 371 ft. in the west; from there the land slopes gradually down to the Swan's Pool Brook on the northern boundary and to the Nene on the south-east, where the lowest point is 144 ft. The land near the river is liable to floods and in some parts is covered with marsh.

The main road connects Earls Barton and Doddington villages with Wellingborough; from this a road branches off near the village of Doddington in a north-westerly direction to Wilby. Great Doddington village lies $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles south-west of Wellingborough station. Owing to its retired situation the village is less spoiled than others in this part of the county, and retains many picturesque 17th-century stone houses with thatched or red-tiled roofs; the dates 1675, 1676, and 1679 occur on individual houses, whilst the Stag's Head Inn, a two-story thatched building with end gable, has a panel inscribed 'i.c. 1686'. A large farm-house in the principal street, with a panel dated 'MDCLXIV', has a bit of 14th-century tracery built into the end of the main wing, and at the west end of the village is a house dated 1703. The vicarage house, said to have been originally the manor-house, to the south-east of the church, is a large 17th-century building with mullioned windows under parallel gabled roofs. There are two chapels in the village, one Baptist and the other Methodist; the National School was built in 1833. The population is employed chiefly in agriculture and the manufacture of boots and shoes. The soil is red loam with an ironstone subsoil and the crops are the usual cereals.

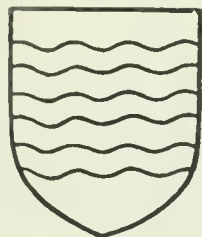
The parish of Great Doddington was inclosed in 1766.¹

In 1086 the Countess Judith of Hunting-
MANORS don held 4 hides in *GREAT DODDINGTON* of the king; Bondi had held it in the time of Edward the Confessor.² The overlordship descended to the family of Hastings with the honor of Huntingdon as Yardley Hastings (q.v.). The overlordship is last mentioned in connexion with Green's Manor in 1391,³ and in connexion with Barnard's Manor in 1480.⁴

By the 13th century two manors are found in Doddington held of this lordship. That afterwards called *GREEN'S MANOR* appears in 1285 when Juliana Tregoz, widow, held half a knight's fee.⁵ Her son John Tregoz⁶ in 1285 obtained a grant of free warren in his demesne lands there.⁷ This John Tregoz granted Doddington manor to Pino Bernardin, a

Florentine merchant of London,⁸ at a rent of £20.⁹ John died in 1299 and in 1301 his co-heirs, his grandson John la Warre and his daughter Sybil wife of William Grandison, were each assigned £10 rent in the manor.¹⁰ In 1309 the rentcharge on the manor was reduced to £10,¹¹ and in 1329 may have been commuted for a lump sum, for in that year Peregrin Bernard, who had succeeded his father Pino¹² by 1324, when he held a quarter fee here,¹³ acknowledged a debt of £100 to William Grandison and Sybil his wife.¹⁴ The history of the manor for some time after this date is obscure. In 1348 William de Harwedon held the quarter of a knight's fee¹⁵ and before 1369 it was in the possession of the Green family. In that year Sir Henry Green died seised of it and was succeeded by his son Thomas.¹⁶ It then descended as Green's Norton (q.v.) through five successive Thomas Greens.¹⁷ The last of these died in 1506 and left his estates to his two daughters and heiresses Anne and Maud.¹⁸ The manor of Doddington was settled on Anne on her marriage with Sir Nicholas Vaux. Sir Nicholas died in 1525 and was succeeded by his son Thomas, who at the age of 14 married Elizabeth Cheyne.¹⁹ Thomas Vaux died about 1556 and was succeeded by his son and heir William.²⁰ From William, who was holding in 1559,²¹ the manor apparently passed to the Spencer family, as Henry Lord Spencer was lord of the manor in 1639.²² Between this date and 1667 the manor again changed hands; at the latter date James Earl of Northampton held it,²³ and his descendant the present Marquess is now lord of the manor.

A second manor, later called *BARNARD'S MANOR*, was held of the honor of Huntingdon in Great Doddington. In 1242 William de Champayne (Campania) held the sixth part of a knight's fee in Doddington.²⁴ This passed to Nicholas son of Robert de Champayne,²⁵ who opposed the king in the Barons' War and forfeited this manor but was allowed to buy it back from Eudes de la Zouche.²⁶ In 1285 Nicholas's son Robert de Champayne held one knight's fee in Great Doddington²⁷ and in 1306 John de Champayne conceded the manor, probably by way of settlement, to Robert de Champayne and his wife Ada.²⁸ Robert still held it in 1312, as a quarter of a knight's fee,²⁹ and in 1313 he conveyed it to his son Robert,³⁰ who held it as a sixth of a fee in 1324.³¹ He was still in possession in 1329,³² but in 1353 his widow Margaret³³ died and their son and heir William obtained the manor.³⁴ From him



CHAMPAYNE. *Argent three bars wavy gules.*

¹ Acts Priv. & Loc. 6 Geo. III, cap. 1.

² *V.C.H. Northants.* i, 351.

³ Chan. Inq. p.m. 15 Ric. II, pt. 1, 24.

⁴ Ibid. 20 Edw. IV, 17.

⁵ *Feud. Aids*, iv, 16.

⁶ *Plac. de Quo Warr.* (Rec. Com.), 580.

⁷ *Cal. Chart. R.* ii, 319.

⁸ *Cal. Pat.* 1281-92, p. 326.

⁹ Chan. Inq. p.m. 28 Edw. I, no. 43.

¹⁰ *Cal. Close*, 1296-1302, p. 477.

¹¹ Add. Chart. 21701.

¹² Assize R. 633, m. 7; *Plac. de Quo Warr.* (Rec. Com.), 580.

¹³ Chan. Inq. p.m. 18 Edw. II, no. 83.

¹⁴ *Cal. Close*, 1327-30, p. 589.

¹⁵ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* ix, 123.

¹⁶ Chan. Inq. p.m. 43 Edw. III, pt. 1, 48.

¹⁷ Bridges, *Hist. of Northants.* i, 240.

¹⁸ Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), xx, 74.

¹⁹ Ibid. xli, 60.

²⁰ G.E.C. *Complete Peerage* (1st ed.), viii, 19.

²¹ Feet of F. Northants. Mich. 1 & 2 Eliz.

²² Recov. R. Trin. 15 Chas. I.

²³ Ibid. Mich. 19 Chas. II.

²⁴ *Bk. of Fees*, 938.

²⁵ *Plac. de Quo Warr.* (Rec. Com.), 563.

²⁶ Assize R. 618, m. 2 d.

²⁷ *Feud. Aids*, iv, 16.

²⁸ Feet of F. Northants. 34 Edw. I, no.

495. ²⁹ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* v, p. 234.

³⁰ Feet of F. Northants. 7 Edw. II, 147.

³¹ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* vi, p. 391.

³² *Plac. de Quo Warr.* (Rec. Com.), 563.

³³ It seems possible that she had married John de Charnele, or Carnaile, who held this sixth of a fee in 1346 and 1348: *Feud. Aids*, iv, 447; *Cal. Inq. p.m.* ix, 122.

³⁴ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* x, 96.

it descended through his daughter Margaret, who had married one of the Hastings, to her daughter Margaret wife of Sir John Sulney. Margaret Sulney died in 1381 and part of this manor of Great Doddington came to William Daundelyn, son of Joan a sister of William de Champayne. This part of the manor afterwards became known as Barnard's Manor. The remainder, called later Turvill's Manor (q.v.), was divided between Margaret wife of Geoffrey Bugge and Elizabeth wife of Thomas Hunt, daughters of Margaret Foucher, another sister of William de Champayne.¹ A later William Daundelyn died seised in 1480 and his heir was Mary Daundelyn daughter of his son John.² She married John Barnard and from them the manor passed to their son John and his wife Cecily Muscote.³ John Barnard died in 1549 and was succeeded by his son Francis,⁴ who in 1572 settled the manor on his son John when he married Dorothy Cane one of the daughters of Francis Cane of Baggrave. In 1586 an inquisition was held as to the lunacy of John Barnard;⁵ at that time he had been out of his mind for six years; his brother Baldwin was his heir. In 1601 Francis, the father of John and Baldwin, died; in 1561 he had bought the other half of the manor of Doddington from Richard Turvill and had settled it in 1589 on his younger son Baldwin,⁶ who thus came into possession of the whole manor. He died in 1610 and was succeeded by his son and heir John then aged 6.⁷ In 1646 John Barnard sold a large part of his estate of Great Doddington to Thomas Parker.⁸ Only isolated references to it occur after this. In 1682 John Hackney conveyed it by fine to Francis Guy,⁹ and in 1719 it was held by Mr. Lamb.¹⁰ In 1773 Ambrose Isted transferred it to Richard Heron;¹¹ this manor then included a mill which in 1781 was held by the Earl of Northampton,¹² so it is probable that the manor also passed to him.

The other moiety of the manor, afterwards known as *TURVILL'S MANOR*, was held by Thomas Hunt during his life, and the reversion was granted in 1394 by John Wasteneys and Margaret his wife (probably the widow of Geoffrey Bugge) to James de Kyneton, clerk, and his heirs.¹³ James came into possession during the next year.¹⁴ There is no further mention of this manor until the year 1507, when John Turvill died seised of it; his son and heir William was then 23 years old.¹⁵ In 1552 the manor had passed to a John Turvill, who was succeeded by his son Richard.¹⁶ In 1562 Richard sold the manor to Francis Barnard,¹⁷ and henceforward it followed the same descent as Barnard's Manor (q.v.).

There was a mill from early times, as the miller of Doddington was said in 1329 to have been drowned while closing the sluice-gates of the mill of 'Hepdewath'.¹⁸ A mill attached to the manor of Barnards in 1773 was subsequently held by the Earl of Northamp-

ton, as already mentioned, and was doubtless on the site of the present mill on the River Nene.

The church of *ST. NICHOLAS* consists of chancel, 36 ft. 6 in. by 17 ft. 6 in.; clerestoried nave, 54 ft. 6 in. by 20 ft. 6 in.; north and south aisles, 10 ft. wide; south porch, and west tower, 12 ft. square, all these measurements being internal. The width across nave and aisles is 46 ft. 9 in.

A church was built here during the first half of the 12th century, having an aisleless nave with north transept, chancel, and west tower. Of this church little is left but the upper part of the nave walls above the arcades and the lower part of the tower: the scalloped capital of a nook-shaft inserted in the wall near the south doorway appears to be c. 1140. The upper part of the tower is late in the same century. The chancel was rebuilt and no doubt lengthened early in the 13th century and was further increased in length by about 8 ft. c. 1290-1300. Soon after this the aisles appear to have been added, or at any rate completed in their present form, but the first pier from the east on the south side, which has 13th-century nail-head ornament, is different from the rest and may indicate that an aisle had been begun earlier on this side and left unfinished. The south doorway has good plain early-14th-century mouldings.

The 13th-century chancel had lancet windows in the side walls, but soon after the completion of the aisles they were altered into wider windows of two lights, with the exception of one on the north side. The clerestory was added c. 1400, superseding a high-pitched roof the tabling of which remains on the east wall of the tower. The porch appears to be of early-18th-century date. The church was restored in 1871.

The building is of rubble throughout, with low-pitched leaded roofs to nave and aisles. Internally the plaster has been stripped from the walls except in the chancel, where it remains above the string. The parapets of the aisles are battlemented and those of the nave plain: over the east gable of the nave are the remains of a sanctus-bell turret.

The chancel has a modern red-tiled roof and plain parapets, with coupled angle buttresses, and is of two bays. Externally the five-light east window is entirely restored, but its rear arch and internal shafted jambs belong to the late-13th-century extension, the length of which is clearly indicated outside by the character of the masonry. The windows are set high and there is a string-course at sill level within and without. On the south side are four square-headed windows of two trefoiled lights, two to each bay, the easternmost wholly of the 14th century, but the rest insertions within the original widely-splayed 13th-century openings, the segmental rear arches of which remain. There are two similar inserted windows in the middle of the north wall,¹⁹ but with uncusped lights, and east of them the original lancet already referred to. In the south wall, in the usual position, is a cusped piscina with shafted jambs and fluted bowl, and west of it two trefoiled sedilia at the same level, the eastern seat containing the bowl of the earlier piscina re-used. The 13th-



BARNARD. *Argent a bear rampant sable.*

¹ Chan. Inq. p.m. 5 Ric. II, no. 50.

² Ibid. 20 Edw. IV, no. 17.

³ Metcalfe, *Visit. Northants.* p. 3.

⁴ Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), lxxxix, 104.

⁵ Ibid. ccx, 149. ⁶ Ibid. cclxxi, 176.

⁷ Ibid. cccix, 202.

⁸ Add. Chats. 5147-9. Barnard's and Turvill's were then still separate manors.

⁹ Feet of F. Northants. Trin. 34 Chas. II.

¹⁰ Bridges, *Northants.* ii, 140.

¹¹ Feet of F. Northants. East. 13 Geo. III.

¹² Recov. R. Trin. 21 Geo. III, no. 385.

¹³ Feet of F. Northants. 18 Ric. II, no. 157.

¹⁴ Ibid. Div. Co. 19 Ric. II, no. 111.

¹⁵ Chan. Inq. p.m. 22 Hen. VII, no. 140.

¹⁶ Feet of F. Div. Co. East. 6 Edw. VI.

¹⁷ Ibid. Northants. Hil. 4 Eliz.

¹⁸ Assize R. 632, m. 6 d.

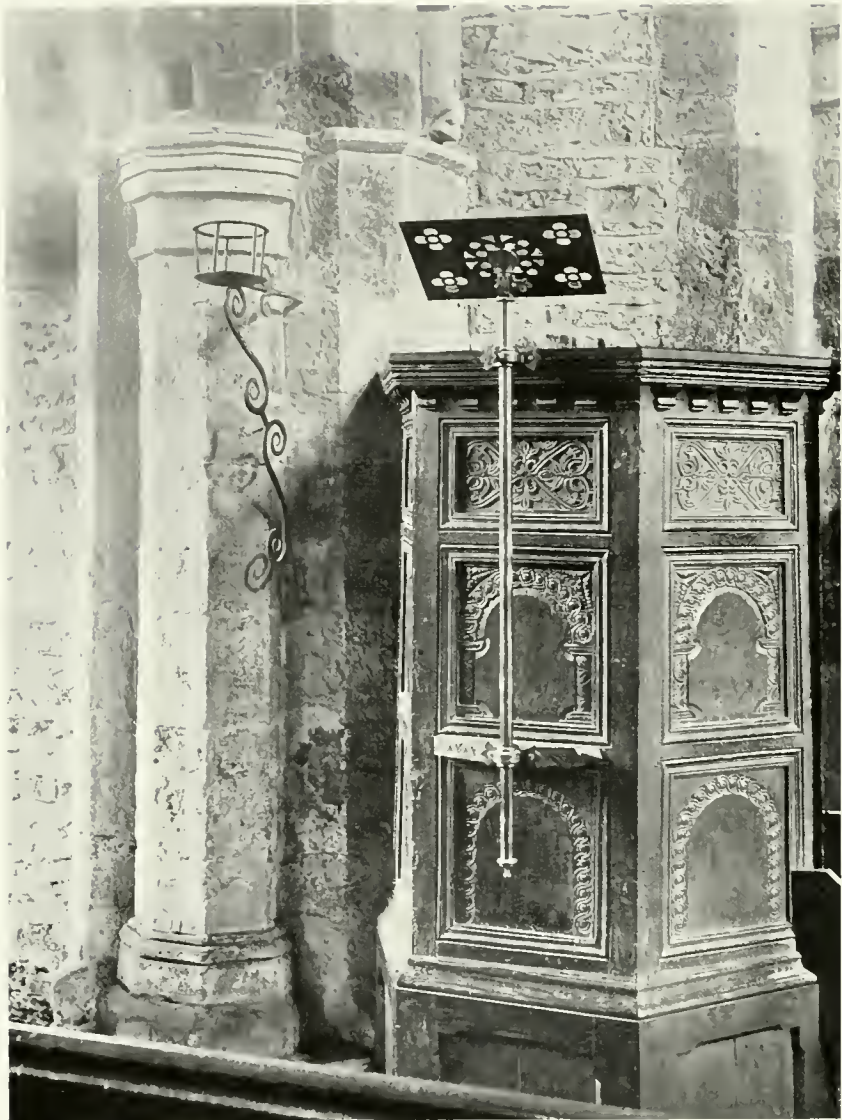
¹⁹ All these six windows are externally wholly of the 14th century.



GREAT DODDINGTON CHURCH: CHAINED BOOKS



GREAT DODDINGTON CHURCH: MISERICORD



DODDINGTON CHURCH: THE PULPIT

century priest's doorway is simply chamfered and has a segmental rear arch: at the west-end of the wall, below the string, is a contemporary lancet low-side window. At the east end of the north wall is a tall rectangular aumbry¹ with trefoiled head and hood-mould, the staples for the door of which remain. West of this is a blocked doorway to a former vestry and farther west again two widely splayed low-side windows, like that opposite, with a blocked doorway between. This arrangement of three low-side windows is unusual, but it is possible that the two in the north wall were intended to give light to a seat in the chancel belonging to the lord of the manor and that the doorway between them was for his use. All three windows are plain chamfered lancets, with hood-moulds, segmental rear arches, and internal sloping sills; that in the south wall retains its shutter hooks and hasp.² The chancel arch is of two chamfered orders, the inner on half-octagonal responds with moulded capitals and bases: a considerable portion of the hood-mould has been cut away on the nave side. The rood-loft doorway, now blocked, is on the south side. Part of the old rood-screen appears to be in use as the support to a desk on the north side of the chancel.

The nave arcades are of four bays with pointed arches of two chamfered orders on octagonal piers with moulded capitals and bases, except between the two eastern arches on the north side where part of the older wall is left standing as a masonry pier³ with a half octagonal respond on each face. The easternmost arch on each side is narrower⁴ than the others, and the two eastern piers stand on square plinths of masonry; elsewhere the plinths follow the plan of the column.

The aisles have diagonal angle buttresses and a scroll string at sill level outside: within, the scroll is repeated in the south aisle, except in the west wall, but in the north aisle the string is keel-shaped, save for a length of scroll moulding at the west. All the windows are of the 14th century, with pointed arches and of three lights. Those at the east end of the aisles and the easternmost in the north and south walls have original reticulated tracery. The rest have cinquefoiled lights and two quatrefoils in the head. In the west wall of the north aisle, built into the string, is a stone bracket carved with a head and conventional four-leaf flower, and above the string another with two grotesque heads conjoined.

The north and south doorways occupy the second bay from the west; both are of the 14th century, with continuous wave mouldings, but the south doorway is of two orders divided by a casement. The 15th-century traceried oak door retains its original hinges and handle and is nail-studded.

There are four square-headed clerestory windows of two trefoiled lights on each side, with segmental rear arches: all the roofs are modern. The organ is in the middle of the north aisle and the vestry at its west end.

West of the chancel there are clear traces of three

altars and there was probably a fourth: at the east end of the south aisle is a 13th-century trefoiled piscina with mutilated fluted bowl,⁵ and at either end of the chancel arch, against the formerly existing rood-screen, are the original tiled floors upon which the nave altars stood.⁶ Behind that at the south end are the remains of a wall-painting of our Lord on the cross between SS. Mary and John, which formed the reredos.⁷ The east ends of both aisles were formerly inclosed by screens, but no piscina or other ancient ritual arrangement remains on the north side.

The arch from the tower to the church is contemporary with the nave arcades and is of three chamfered orders on the east side, the inner order on half-round responds with moulded capitals and bases.⁸ Above the arch, within the line of the original nave roof, is a round-headed opening.

The tower is of three receding stages and finished originally with a tiled saddle-back roof, but in 1737 this was taken down and the present flat leaded roof and plain parapets with angle pinnacles substituted.⁹ The diagonal buttresses are additions of the 14th century, and the west doorway seems to have been inserted c. 1190-1200: it is of three square orders, the two outer on shafts with moulded capitals and bases. Above the doorway in the lower stage is an original round-headed window of two chamfered orders with hood-mould, and on the south side in the upper part of the middle stage a window of two rounded lights, which may be a comparatively late insertion. The lower stage is blank on the north and south and the middle stage on the north and west. The bell-chamber windows are of two round-headed chamfered lights recessed within a semicircular moulded arch without hood-mould. On the south side of the tower are two tablets, one inscribed 'This steeple was pointed in 1685', the other obliterated.¹⁰

The 13th-century font has a plain circular bowl and short stem, on two circular steps. It has a late tall crocketed pyramidal oak cover.

The 17th-century oak pulpit is part of a former 'two-decker'; in plan it is hexagonal, with three tiers of panels, the two lower arched, and stands on a modern stone base. Behind it, attached by a bracket to the pier, is an iron hour-glass stand and glass. The lectern and altar rails are also of the 17th century, the latter with twisted balusters of c. 1620-40.

Four choir stalls, two on each side, with carved misericords, remain in the chancel: on the north side are represented a carver with his tools at work on the rose supporters, and vine leaves and fruit issuing from a mouth; on the south a rose, and leaves. The counters also are carved. Some 17th-century seats remain at the west end of the south aisle.

In the middle of the nave is a 14th-century floor slab with indents of a cross and two shields: the brass inscription remains—'Ici gist Mons. William de Pateshull qu. morust le xvij jour de Septembr. mcccclix'.¹¹

¹ The opening is 2 ft. 9 in. high by 16 in. wide. There are traces of painting on the face of the lintel below the arched head.

² *Assoc. Arch. Soc. Reports*, xxix, 402-3. Each of the windows is 3 ft. high by 13 in. wide. The height of the sill of the south window above the floor is 3 ft. 1 in. and of those on the north 2 ft. 1 in. and 2 ft. 8 in. respectively.

³ The pier measures 3 ft. 5 in. from west to east.

⁴ Width of arch on north side between

responds 9 ft. 4 in., on south side 10 ft. 4 in. The other arches average 11 ft. 6 in. in width.

⁵ The front of the bowl is cut away, as is also the hood-mould.

⁶ The spaces measure 6 ft. 4 in. by 5 ft. There is also some medieval tiling at the west end of the south aisle.

⁷ The painting, now very indistinct, was discovered in 1871.

⁸ The middle order dies out, while the outer order forms a two-centred segmental

arch with the chamfer continued down the jambs.

⁹ Bridges describes the tower as 'ridged' and 'tiled at the top': *Hist. of Northants.* ii, 140.

¹⁰ According to a transcript made in 1870 the inscription read: 'This steeple was taken down and leaded at top by Moses Mores and William Pettit, churchwardens, July 21, 1737.'

¹¹ The brass measures 19½ in. by 2½ in. The slab was re-used for 'J. G.' in 1737.

A HISTORY OF NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

In the floor of the north aisle is a large slab¹ with two leaf-stemmed calvary crosses the heads of which are obliterated, as is the inscription in Lombardic lettering along two of the verges.

Bridges mentions four shields of arms in two of the windows of the north aisle, but of these only one survives—azure a bend or between six covered cups (Butler). There is also a stained roundel with the sacred monogram crowned and in a border of roses in one of the windows of the south aisle, and fragments in the side lights.

Three chained books are preserved in a glass case: (i) Erasmus' *Paraphrase* 1551; (ii) a Bible of 1613; and (iii) the *Book of Homilies* 1676.²

There are five bells, cast by John Taylor of Oxford and Loughborough in 1841.³ In 1552 there were three bells and a little bell, and in 1700 four bells.

The plate consists of a silver cup and cover paten of 1569, an alms dish of 1683 given by Mrs. Frances Say in 1721, and a flagon of 1721 given in that year by the Rev. Humphrey Say, vicar.⁴

The registers before 1812 are as follows: (i) baptisms 1560–1648, marriages and burials 1560–1647; (ii) burials 1678–1792; (iii) marriages 1690–1754; (iv) baptisms 1690–1773; (v) baptisms 1773–1812; (vi) marriages 1754–1812; (vii) burials 1793–1812.

The advowson of the church of *ADWOWSON* Great Doddington was granted by Simon de St. Liz the younger to the nunnery of Delapré in the 12th century.⁵ In 1291 the living was valued at £13 6s. 8d.⁶ In 1328 Edward III confirmed to the Abbess of Delapré all the gifts of Earl Simon including the church of Doddington.⁷ At the Dissolution the value, including a pension received by the Archdeacon of Northampton, was £12 2s. 8d.⁸

The vicarage was rated at £8 13s. 4d. Since the reign of Henry VIII the patronage of Great Doddington has been held by the Crown.⁹

The rectory until the Dissolution belonged to Delapré; after the year 1531 it was granted by Henry VIII to Lord Harrowden, who died in 1595 and left the rectory to his wife Mary for her life, with remainder to his son George and his heirs or, failing such, to his brother Ambrose Vaux, who in the same year transferred his right to Anthony Naylhart.¹⁰ Evidently the rectory was sold, for in 1607 Thomas Sherley conceded it to Roger Rogers and others.¹¹ Again within a few years the rectory changed hands; in 1611 Augustin Say died seised of it and was succeeded by his son Francis.¹² In 1628 Francis alienated the rectory to Alexander Ekins,¹³ in whose family it remained until 1719, when Harvey Ekins conveyed it to John Hanbury.¹⁴ In 1766 when the parish was inclosed Ambrose Isted held the rectory and all the tithes,¹⁵ but in 1773 he transferred it with Doddington Manor to Richard Heron.¹⁶

The Poor's Land. A plot of ground *CHARITIES* of nearly 2½ acres was conveyed to the vicar, churchwardens, and overseers by deed of 16 February 1767 with the approbation of the Inclosure Commissioners in exchange for a close which had been purchased in 1692 with certain sums given for the use of the poor. In 1870 a portion of the land was sold to the L. & N.W. railway and the proceeds invested in £83 14s. 11d. Consols with the Official Trustees, producing £2 1s. 8d. yearly in dividends. The remainder of the land, consisting of 1 a. 3 r. 1 p., is let for £4 yearly. The income of the charity is distributed by the vicar and three trustees appointed by the Parish Council.

EARLS BARTON

Bartone, Barton (xi–xiii cent.); Earl's Barton (xiv–xx cent.); Barton Yarles (xvi cent.).

The parish of Earls Barton is pleasantly situated on the north bank of the River Nene, near which the land is low-lying and often flooded. It rises from the river to a height of 336 ft. in the north. The village, often called Barton-on-the-hill, is of considerable size; the older part is built at the meeting-point of roads from Great Doddington, Northampton, and Wellingborough. It contains several 17th-century houses built of ironstone, but with later modern windows, and mostly thatched. Most of these retain coped end gables with kneelers, and one large block in High Street has a gabled front dated 1686. The village is 1¼ miles north of Castle Ashby and Earls Barton station. On the village green below the church is a war memorial. Near the village square are the Methodist, Baptist, and Calvinistic Baptist chapels. There are two schools, a Board School built in 1868, and a National School enlarged in 1885. The newer part of the village, New Barton, is built north of the old part.

The extent of the parish is 2,307 acres. The soil is red loam, subsoil ironstone and limestone; the chief crops are cereals. Besides agriculture the manufacture of boots and shoes gives employment for many of the inhabitants. In 1931 the population numbered 2,587. The name Earls Barton was derived from the Earls of Huntingdon who were anciently lords of the fee.

There was formerly within this parish a hamlet of Thorp; probably the south-east part of the village called Dowthorp End marks its site. Ancient remains have been found in this parish; these include British coins of the late Celtic period¹⁷ and an earthwork which has been partly destroyed for the site of the church.¹⁸

The Church Clock Close in Earls Barton was land originally set apart for repairing 'a clock dyall or watch for the comfort of the township of Earls Barton'.¹⁹

In 1086 the Countess Judith held 4 hides *MANORS* in Barton valued at £4. It had been in the tenure of Bondi, who held it with soc and sac.²⁰ From Judith it descended to her son-in-law King David;²¹ and so to the Hastings family, following the

¹ Size 7 ft. 6 in. by 3 ft. 3 in.

² All three are imperfect.

³ North, *Ch. Bells of Northants.* 250, where the inscriptions are given: on three of the bells Taylor is described as of Loughborough, on the second as of Oxford, and on the tenor as of Oxford and Loughborough.

⁴ Markham, *Ch. Plate of Northants.* 100. The foot of the paten is inscribed '1570'.

⁵ *V.C.H. Northants.* ii, 114.

⁶ *Pope Nich. Tax.* (Rec. Com.), 39.

⁷ Chart. R. 2 Edw. III, m. 15, no. 47.

⁸ *Valor Eccles.* (Rec. Com.), iv, 265–321.

⁹ Inst. Bks. (P.R.O.).

¹⁰ Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), ccxxiv, 121.

¹¹ Pat. 4 Jas. I, pt. 19.

¹² Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), ccxxiii, 30.

¹³ Feet of F. Northants. East. 4 Chas. I.

¹⁴ Ibid. Trin. 6 Geo. I.

¹⁵ Acts Priv. & Loc. 6 Geo. III, cap. 1.

¹⁶ Feet of F. Northants. East. 13 Geo. III.

¹⁷ *V.C.H. Northants.* i, 155.

¹⁸ Ibid. ii, 405.

¹⁹ *Northants. N. & Q.* i, 39.

²⁰ *V.C.H. Northants.* i, 351.

²¹ Ibid. i, 382.

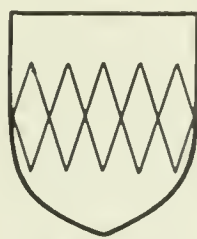


EARLS BARTON: THE MOUNT AND CHURCH TOWER

same descent as Yardley Hastings (q.v.). The overlordship is last mentioned in connexion with Earls Barton in 1511.¹



HASTINGS. Or a sleeve gules.



PNKENY. Or a fesse indented of five points gules.

At the beginning of the 14th century three manors existed in Earls Barton. One of these, called *PYNKENY* or *BARNARD'S MANOR*, from the names of the families which held it, seems to have been in the hands of David de Lindesey, whose widow Margery² held half a fee in Barton in 1241, at which time Thomas de Lindesey was said to hold a quarter fee there.³ But Thomas was actually dead in 1239,⁴ and his heir held the quarter fee in 1242.⁵ This heir was apparently Gerard de Lindesey, son of Margery,⁶ and his sister Alice married Henry de Pynkeny. Henry, before his death in 1253, gave 10 marks of land which he held in Earls Barton in right of his wife to his daughter Alice,⁷ who married Ralph de Thorp, and his son Henry confirmed the gift.⁸ Alice, who died in 1289, had held the manor of Earls Barton of Robert de Pynkeny, her nephew, but had surrendered it to him, reserving the use of the hall, chambers, kitchen, &c., during her life.⁹ Her son Simon de Thorp in 1292 gave up to Robert de Pynkeny his claim in lands here,¹⁰ though between 1329 and 1332 Simon's three daughters laid claim to the manor.¹¹ During his minority Simon de Thorp had been in ward to Seman de Stokes,¹² who appears in 1285 as holding part of a fee in Barton.¹³ Robert de Pynkeny died in 1295, and in 1316 Robert his son held Barton Manor.¹⁴ Robert de Pynkeny was still in possession in 1349,¹⁵ and had a daughter Margaret¹⁶ who married William de Champayne, whose grand-daughter Margaret was the wife of John Sulney. The manor then followed the same descent as Barnard's in Great Doddington (q.v.) until 1633, when John Barnard and his wife Elizabeth were in possession of the manor.¹⁷ From John Barnard the Whitworth family evidently acquired Barnard's Manor, but the exact date of the transfer is not known. In 1636 Myles Whitworth petitioned as a resident in Earls Barton¹⁸ and in 1655 Robert Whitworth had land there.¹⁹ In 1711 William and Robert Whitworth conveyed

certain tithes in Barton to William Manning.²⁰ By 1812 the Whitworths held Barnard's Manor and had also acquired Holdenby's Manor (q.v.) from the Earl of Northampton.²¹ Subsequently the manor of Earls Barton descended to T. W. Whitworth, whose trustees held it in 1877. At the present day no manorial rights are exercised in Earls Barton, but William Chetwode Whitworth is principal landowner.

A second manor in Earls Barton called *HOLDENBY'S* and later *SPENCER'S MANOR* was held in the latter half of the 13th century by the Charneles, or Carnail,²² family. In 1247 Agnes de Carnail conveyed her lands in Barton to William de Carnail.²³ In 1275 William de Carnail was presented for having encroached on the high road in Barton,²⁴ and in 1285 he, with Seman de Stokes (guardian of Simon de Thorpe),²⁵ held a knight's fee there.²⁶ Another William, presumably his son, in 1325 held $\frac{1}{4}$ fee in Barton.²⁷ In 1343 William and his wife Isabel transferred the manor to their son William and his wife Joan.²⁸ In 1346 William held fees in Earls Barton.²⁹ William de Carnail died on 24 June 1349, when the Black Death was raging in this district, leaving as heir his daughter Maud, then 1 year old,³⁰ in ward to John and Thomas de Carnail,



CHARNELES. Gules two cheverons in a border or.



HOLDENBY. Azure five cinquefoils argent set saltirewise.

brothers of William.³¹ In 1362 an inquisition was made concerning the age of Maud, who had married Robert de Holdenby.³² Robert and Maud in 1392 granted certain lands out of their manor to the nunnery of Delapré.³³ Robert de Holdenby was succeeded by John; after whom the manor descended to his son John Holdenby and his wife Joan. Their son William³⁴ in 1456 granted to his mother certain lands in Barton for her life. William's son William, who in 1490 granted to his mother Agnes Nevill for life certain rents out of his manor,³⁵ was the last of his family to hold the manor; from him it appears to have passed to the Muscote family. John Muscote died seised of land held of John Barnard in Earls Barton in 1512; his heir was his son Richard,³⁶ who in 1539 held 'Holdenby's Manor'.³⁷ Richard Muscote died in 1558, having settled the manor³⁸ on his wife Mary, who survived him, and was

¹ Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), xxvii, 133.

² Farrer, *Honors and Knights' Fees*, ii, 344. ³ *Cal. Close*, 1237-42, p. 369.

⁴ Farrer, loc. cit.

⁵ *Bk. of Fees*, q38.

⁶ Farrer, op. cit. 345.

⁷ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* i, 304.

⁸ *Assize R.* 632, m. 60.

⁹ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* ii, 752.

¹⁰ Feet of F. Northants. 21 Edw. I, no. 303.

¹¹ *Assize R.* 632, m. 60; De Banco R. 292, m. 400.

¹² *Cal. Inq. p.m.* ii, 316.

¹³ *Feud. Aids*, iv, 17.

¹⁴ Feet of F. Northants. 10 Edw. II; cf. *Plac. de Quo Warr.* (Rec. Com.), 540.

¹⁵ *Cal. Close*, 1346-9, p. 582.

¹⁶ *Ped. jr. Plea R.* 373.

¹⁷ Feet of F. Northants. Hil. 8 Chas. I.

¹⁸ *Cal. S.P. Dom.* 1636-7, i, 286.

¹⁹ *Northants. N. & Q.* i, 39.

²⁰ Feet of F. Northants. East. 10 Anne.

²¹ *Recov. R. East.* 52 Geo. III, ro. 423.

²² Frequently printed as 'Carvail'.

²³ Feet of F. Northants. 31 Hen. III.

²⁴ *Hund. R.* (Rec. Com.), ii, 12.

²⁵ See above, n. 12.

²⁶ *Feud. Aids*, iv, 17. In the return of the fees of John de Hastings in 1313 what

is apparently this quarter fee is said to be held by Michael de Halughton, possibly during a minority: *Cal. Inq. p.m.* v, 234.

²⁷ *Cal. Close*, 1323-7, p. 433.

²⁸ *Add. Chart.* 21522.

²⁹ *Feud. Aids*, iv, 447.

³⁰ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* ix, 321.

³¹ *Exch. Accts. bdle.* 10, no. 25.

³² Chan. Inq. p.m. 36 Edw. III, i, 144.

³³ *Add. Chart.* 21525.

³⁴ *Ibid.* 21528. ³⁵ *Ibid.* 21529.

³⁶ Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), xxvii, 133.

³⁷ *Recov. R. East.* 31 Hen. VIII.

³⁸ Said to be held of Francis Barnard as of his manor of Earls Barton.

A HISTORY OF NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

succeeded by his son John Muscote¹ who in 1566 alienated the manor to Sir John Spencer,² who died in 1587, having settled the manor on his son Richard.³ On the death of Sir Richard in 1624 his manor came to his second son Brockett.⁴ No further mention has been found of this family holding a manor in Earls Barton, but like Great Doddington (q.v.) in 1719 it was in the hands of the Earl of Northampton⁵ and from him it descended to his grand-nephew Charles⁶ Lord Compton, who held it in 1780.⁷ In 1811 Charles, then Earl of Northampton, still held this manor,⁸ but by 1812 it had been transferred to William Whitworth⁹ and followed the same descent as Barnard's Manor (q.v.), with which it then became merged.



MUSCOTE. *Gules a cross engrailed argent with five roses gules thereon.*

The Abbey of Delapré held an estate or manor known as *DELAPREY MANOR* in Barton. At an early date Roger son of Saer de Wollaston gave property in Barton to this house.¹⁰ Subsequently Henry de Pynkeny gave 8 virgates in Barton,¹¹ and in 1313,¹² and again in 1349,¹³ a half fee was returned as held jointly by Robert de Pynkeny and the Abbess of Delapré. In 1329 the abbess successfully claimed frankpledge from her tenants in her manor of Barton.¹⁴ In 1392 Robert Holdenby granted land in Barton to the convent,¹⁵ and about the same time grants were made to it by John Mauntell and Thomas Bray.¹⁶ The value of these lands held by Delapré in 1535 was £9 5s. annually.¹⁷ At the Dissolution this estate passed to the Crown, and in 1537 Henry VIII granted £20 of rent out of this and other estates in Earls Barton to William Lee.¹⁸ The lands, which had been leased to various tenants, were granted in 1553 to Anthony Brown and Richard Weston,¹⁹ and ten years later Anthony Brown quitclaimed the whole estate to Richard Weston.²⁰ By 1604 Delaprey Manor was in the hands of Sir Richard Spencer, owner of Holdenby's, and the two manors descended together²¹ until 1812, when Delaprey was among the manors held by William Whitworth.²²

Another manor or estate named *DRUEL'S MANOR* was held of the Earl of Kent in 1495, when John Druel of Newton Bromswold (q.v.) died seised of it and was succeeded by his brother Richard.²³ It had been held by John's grandmother Joan Druell *alias* Burne, widow, until the previous year. The manor is not

mentioned by name again, but in 1540 Thomas Carowe and John Knight alienated a third of a 'manor' in Earls Barton to John Brown and Audrey his wife and their son George.²⁴ This may refer to Druel's Manor. In 1557 George Brown granted certain lands to John Lord Mordaunt.²⁵ In 1609 Henry Lord Mordaunt, grandson of John,²⁶ died seised of a rent of 33s. 2½d. issuing from lands in Earls Barton.²⁷ No further trace of this estate has been found.

THORP MANOR in the hamlet of that name seems to have been 'Widetorp', in which, at the Domesday Survey, Robert held of the Countess Judith 3 virgates of land.²⁸ The overlordship descended with the honor of Huntingdon. No further mention of the manor has been found until 1375, when the manor of Thorp by Barton was conveyed by Thomas Seymour, of Hardwick, to Robert Drakelowe and his wife Catherine and their heirs.²⁹ In 1491 Roger Salisbury died seised of Thorp and left his son William as heir.³⁰ William died about 1511 and the manor descended to his daughter Mary, then married to Sir William Parre.³¹ In 1519 Sir William Parre and his wife settled the manor on Ralph Lane, who married Sir William's daughter Maud.³² In 1558 Sir Thomas Tresham held lands³³ in Barton which had belonged to Sir William Parre, then deceased, whose daughter Mary he had married.³⁴ Before the year 1580 the manor had been conveyed to Thomas Tyringham, who in that year alienated it to Thomas Throckmorton³⁵ probably in trust for Thomas Tresham, grandson of Sir Thomas Tresham and Mary Parre, and his wife Muriel, daughter of Sir Robert Throckmorton.³⁶ Nothing further has been found in connexion with Thorp Manor.

At the time of the Conqueror's Survey there *MILLS* were three mills in Earls Barton; these rendered 28s. 6d. annually and were held by the Countess Judith.³⁷ In 1580 two water-mills were held with Thorp Manor³⁸ and in 1592 one was appurtenant to the rectory then held by Clement Lewis.³⁹

There was formerly in Earls Barton a *COURT* court called the Baron's Mote held every month by the Earls of Huntingdon.⁴⁰ To this court all who held of the honor of Huntingdon owed suit and service.⁴¹

The church of *ALL SAINTS* stands *CHURCH* conspicuously on a prominent spur of land that commands the road running up to the village from the ford and mill in the valley below,⁴² and occupies part of the site of a mote castle, or mound fortress, the ditch of which remains on the north side.

¹ Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), cxv, 13; Chan. Proc. (Ser. 2), 127 (7).

² Feet of F. Northants. East. 8 Eliz.

³ Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), ccxv, 58.

⁴ Ibid. cccxviii, 95.

⁵ Bridges, *Northants*, ii, 138.

⁶ G.E.C. *Complete Peerage* (1st ed.), vi,

74-7. Recov. R. Trin. 21 Geo. III, ro. 385.

⁸ Ibid. Hil. 51 Geo. III, ro. 212.

⁹ Ibid. East. 52 Geo. III, ro. 423.

¹⁰ Dugdale, *Mon.* v, 210.

¹¹ Ibid. 213.

¹² *Cal. Inq. p.m.* vi, p. 391.

¹³ *Cal. Close*, 1346-9, p. 582.

¹⁴ *Plac. de Quo Warr.* (Rec. Com.), 573.

¹⁵ Add. Chart. 21525.

¹⁶ *Cal. Pat.* 1391-6, p. 160; Chan.

Inq. p.m. 16 Ric. II, pt. ii, 42.

¹⁷ *Valor Eccles.* (Rec. Com.), iv, 321.

¹⁸ *L. and P. Hen. VIII*, xiii, pt. 1, 583.

¹⁹ Pat. 7 Edw. VI, pt. 7, m. 6.

²⁰ Com. Pleas D. Enr. Trin. 5 Eliz.

²¹ Feet of F. Northants. Hil. 2 Jas. I; ibid. East. 5 Chas. I; ibid. Hil. 4 & 5 Wm. and Mary.

²² Recov. R. East. 52 Geo. III, ro. 423.

²³ Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), xi, m. 53.

²⁴ Feet of F. Northants. Hil. 31 Hen.

VIII. Audrey was still holding in 1553: Recov. R. Hil. 1 Mary, ro. 415.

²⁵ Com. Pleas. D. Enr. East. 1 Edw. VI, m. 4 d.

²⁶ G.E.C. *Peerage*, v, 366.

²⁷ Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), cccix, 200.

²⁸ *V.C.H. Northants.* i, 354.

²⁹ Feet of F. Northants. 49 Edw. III.

³⁰ *Cal. Inq. p.m. Hen. VII*, i, p. 341.

³¹ Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), lxxviii, 38.

³² Burke, *Extinct Peerages*, 419.

³³ Pat. 5 & 6 Ph. and M. pt. iii, 10.

³⁴ Burke, loc. cit.

³⁵ Feet of F. Div. Co. Mich. 21 & 22 Eliz.

³⁶ Lipscomb, *Hist. of Bucks.* iv, 373.

³⁷ *V.C.H. Northants.* i, 351.

³⁸ Feet of F. Div. Co. Mich. 21 & 22 Eliz.

³⁹ Pat. 35 Eliz. pt. 5.

⁴⁰ Chan. Inq. p.m. 49 Edw. III, pt. i, 70.

⁴¹ Bridges, *Northants.* ii, 138.

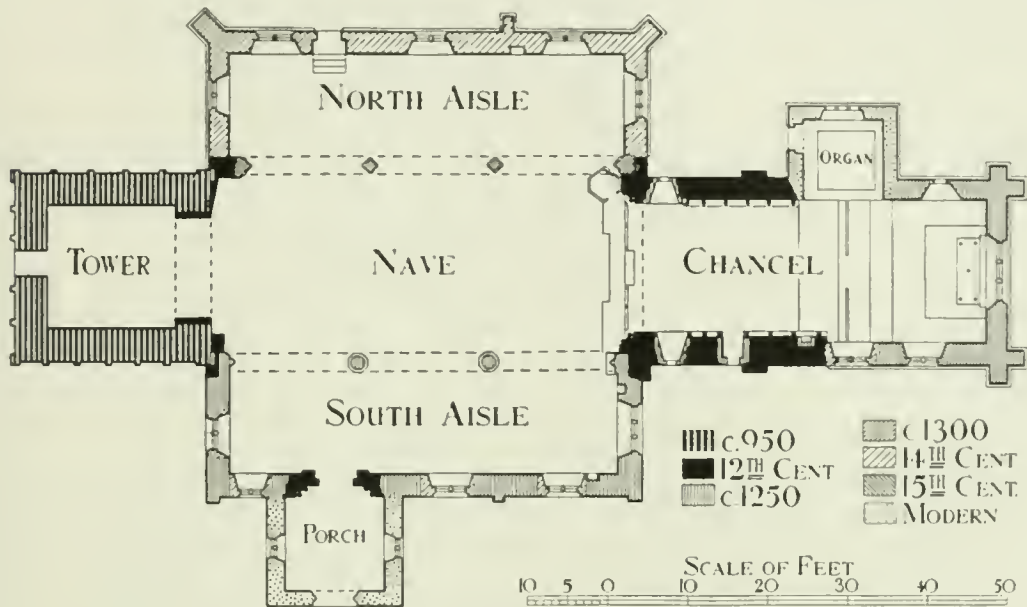
⁴² G. Baldwin Brown, *Arts in Early Eng.* i, 297. The late Prof. Baldwin Brown's account of the Saxon tower is, with permission, made use of in our description. The site is about 170 ft. above the River Nene. Sir William Hope explained the nearness of the mound to the church by the fact that the nave was originally aisleless and the graveyard on the north side of it of small extent, thus leaving plenty of room for the mound and ditch: *Arch. Jour.* lxxix, 513.

The site has been already described.¹ The building consists of chancel, 43 ft. 6 in. by 16 ft. 9 in.;² clerestoried nave, 51 ft. by 22 ft.; north and south aisles, respectively 12 ft. 9 in. and 13 ft. wide; south porch, and west tower, 14 ft. 9 in. by 15 ft. 9 in.,³ all these measurements being internal. The width across the nave and aisles is 53 ft. There is a small modern organ-chamber on the north side of the chancel.

The church is of exceptional interest as possessing a late Saxon tower which is generally agreed to be both the finest existing specimen of pre-Conquest work⁴ and the most noteworthy architectural monument of its period in England,⁵ as well as features ranging from the 12th to the 15th centuries. The tower alone is earlier

roof, and the nave and aisles roofs of low pitch, all leaded.

The tower is of four unequal stages and is 68 ft. 8 in. in height to the top of the modern battlemented parapet, with an external width on the west face of 24 ft. The walls are about 4 ft. thick above a simple square plinth, but decrease as they ascend to 2 ft. 6 in. at the bell-chamber stage by a series of set-offs. The stages, or horizontal divisions, are marked by string-courses, of which the first has a hollow chamfer, the other two being square in section, and the quoins show pronounced long-and-short work. The faces of the walling are enriched by pilaster strips about 4 in. in width, between which the rubble is plastered, the strips being



PLAN OF EARLS BARTON CHURCH

than the Conquest, but the quoins of an aisleless early 12th-century nave remain at the two eastern angles and less perfectly at the west end, while the south doorway is of c. 1180, but was rebuilt when the south aisle was made. The 12th-century chancel was lengthened and altered c. 1250, and about the same time aisles were added to the nave, the south aisle being the earlier. The north arcade is of c. 1290–1300, but both aisles were altered in the 14th century, when the arches of the nave arcades seem to have been reconstructed and a new chancel arch erected upon the 12th-century jambs; the outer walls of the north aisle were entirely rebuilt and new windows inserted in the chancel and south aisle. Other windows were made in the chancel in the 15th century and the clerestory was added. The building was restored in 1868–70, when the roofs⁶ were renewed, a west gallery removed, the porch rebuilt, and the organ-chamber added.⁷

The walls are of rubble, plastered internally, with plain ashlar parapets; the chancel has a high-pitched

joined by round arches at the bottom of the second stage, and by diagonal bands of strip work forming straight-sided arches in the third stage. The eastern quoins are as marked as the western and are completed down to the ground, the 12th-century nave being built up against them. It is therefore possible that the ground story of the tower formed the body, or main interior division, of the original church, and had a narrower, square-ended chancel on the eastern side, but there is no indication of a western adjunct⁸ as at Barton-on-Humber. Unfortunately, at Earls Barton the eastern arch opening to the nave was altered and widened later, and its original form lost. Whatever the nature of the eastern limb, however, its roof was of high pitch, the apex of the gable reaching to the lower part of the third stage of the tower, where its marks still remain.

The west doorway has a semicircular moulded⁹ head, which on the exterior is cut out of two stones, but internally the whole head is formed of a single block. The doorway, which is 3 ft. 3 in. wide and

¹ *V.C.H. Northants.* ii, 405, where a plan is given.

² This is the width of the older western part; at the east end it is 18 ft. 3 in. wide.

³ The greater dimension is from north to south.

⁴ Baldwin Brown, *op. cit.* i, 65.

⁵ *Ibid.* ii, 283 (ed. 1925, hereafter used).

⁶ Before the restoration the roof of the nave is said to have been of 15th-century date. The chancel roof was 'comparatively modern' and cut across the east window and the chancel arch: *Assoc. Arch. Soc. Repts.* x, p. xxxv.

⁷ *Assoc. Arch. Soc. Repts.* ix, p. xcvi; x, pp. xxxv, xci; xi, p. xciv. The architect in charge of the restoration was Mr. E. F.

Law. The nave arcades were rebuilt with the old material, and the external stonework and windows extensively restored. The north aisle was repaired in 1877: *ibid.* xiv, p. xli.

⁸ The treatment of the face of the tower seems to preclude the idea.

⁹ Two mouldings of half-round section.

A HISTORY OF NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

7 ft. 7 in. high to the crown of the arch, is cut straight through the wall, and the door was suspended on the inner face by iron hooks. The jambs are formed by large slabs set upright, alternating with flat stones, but they differ in construction, on the north side a single slab 4 ft. 6 in. high, 6 in. thick, and 3 ft. 7 in. deep forming almost the whole height of the jamb. The doorway is enriched with an outer order of upright pilaster strips bent round above in the shape of the arch, and upon the outer and inner faces of the square impost is an incised arcading, which may have been added in the 12th century. The plinths are square blocks.

Immediately above the doorway is a round-headed, internally splayed 12th-century window, taking the place of an original double window, like that in the south wall of the tower. This is double splayed with cross-shaped piercings in the mid-wall slabs, whereas those on the western side were circular.¹ Externally the openings are ornamented with three projecting baluster shafts set on square corbels, and above each is an enrichment of narrow roll-mouldings disposed about a central cross carved in relief.² The openings occupy the upper part of the two middle vertical spaces between the pilaster strips, immediately below the string course, the south face of the tower being divided into six such spaces; on the north side there are only five, and both of the lower stages are quite plain.

In the second stage, except on the north, are round-headed upper doorways.³ That on the east side, which is placed higher than the others, now gives access to the roof of the nave, but originally opened into a space between an upper and an under roof.⁴ On the south and west sides the doorways, which are 2 ft. 6 in. wide by 7 ft. in height, provide egress from near the floor of the ringing chamber, but the external apertures are at too great a height from the ground to admit of access by a ladder from the outside, nor is there any sign of a gallery or platform. In the third stage, one on each of the four sides, are small triangular-headed openings⁵ which, like the doorways in the stage below, are cut straight through the thickness of the wall without any splay.⁶

The short upper, or bell-chamber stage has on each face a group of five round-headed openings so arranged that the main part of the wall is carried by simple square stone pillars, while the baluster shafts, which are intended to be seen, are thrust forward to the external edge of the opening. The shafts differ from those generally in use, being mostly oblong in plan instead of round, and only equipped with mouldings on their outer faces.⁷

The present opening from the tower to the nave is of the late 13th century, with re-use of 12th-century material, and is 12 ft. 6 in. wide. The arch is a pointed one of three chamfered orders dying out above plain jambs with scalloped and moulded imposts, and the outer order facing east has a double row of billet

moulding. The ground floor of the tower is now a vestry and has a modern floor at the height of the crown of the arch.

Of the 12th-century nave only the angles with their ashlar quoin-stones and the jambs of the chancel arch⁸ remain in position, the south doorway having been moved outward. It has an enriched semicircular arch of three orders, the innermost continuous with chevron ornament and plain soffit, the two outer on nook-shafts with sculptured capitals and moulded imposts and bases. The chevron is also used on the outer order, and the middle order has beak-heads on an angle roll, the soffits in each case being plain; the hood-mould has a circular arched ornament. The circular inner shafts are enriched with spiral decoration, but the others are octagonal in section with studded and plain chevrons. The west capital of the middle order has a bird with wings displayed at the angle.

The opening of the chancel arch is the full width of the 12th-century chancel, with two shafts on each side towards the nave, all with cushion capitals. Upon these is a 14th-century arch of three orders facing west and two on the east side, the latter chamfered, the former with wave-moulding.

The side walls of the Norman chancel still form the western part of the present structure for a distance of about 24 ft. At this point on either side the walling is reduced in thickness where the 13th-century work begins, thus increasing the width of the chancel at the east end by 18 in. Externally a flat, shallow buttress remains on each side 12 ft. from the west end, but no original windows have survived, and the internal wall-arcading, which seems to have been carried all round the 12th-century chancel, was reconstructed and some of the spare arches from the east end were inserted as sedilia in the new part of the south wall,⁸ while pieces of chevron ornament, probably from the jambs of earlier windows, were built up at the interior angles of the old walls at their junction with the thinner walls of the added portion.⁹ On the south side the wall arcade now consists of six semicircular arches with chevron moulding, on shafts¹⁰ with scalloped capitals, on a continuous bench-table, the easternmost arch being occupied by a rectangular aumbry. On the north side are five similar arches, with the springing of a sixth at the junction of the old and new work, but the capitals of the shafts vary, one being cushioned, another scalloped, one with volutes, and two sculptured. Over each arcade, at sill level, is a string-course with double billet moulding. The arcading now begins about 5 ft. from the entrance to the chancel, two low-side windows having been introduced at the west end opposite to each other. That on the south is pointed, with chamfered arch and hood-mould terminating in corbels, whilst the other is a plain rectangular opening. Both have flat sills forming seats and on the north side the hooks for the shutter remain.¹¹ The moulded, round-headed priest's doorway apparently belongs to the

¹ Baldwin Brown, *op. cit.* ii, 286.

² *Ibid.* ii, 287; *V.C.H. Northants.* ii, 193.

³ 'Enigmatical doorways, apparently leading no whither', Baldwin Brown, *op. cit.* ii, 287; the subject is discussed, *ibid.* 337.

⁴ *Ibid.* ii, 336.

⁵ That on the east side again at a higher level.

⁶ 'This is usual in the case of doorways,

but quite abnormal in that of window openings, which especially in late Saxon work are always deeply splayed either internally or on both faces of the wall': Baldwin Brown, *op. cit.* ii, 287.

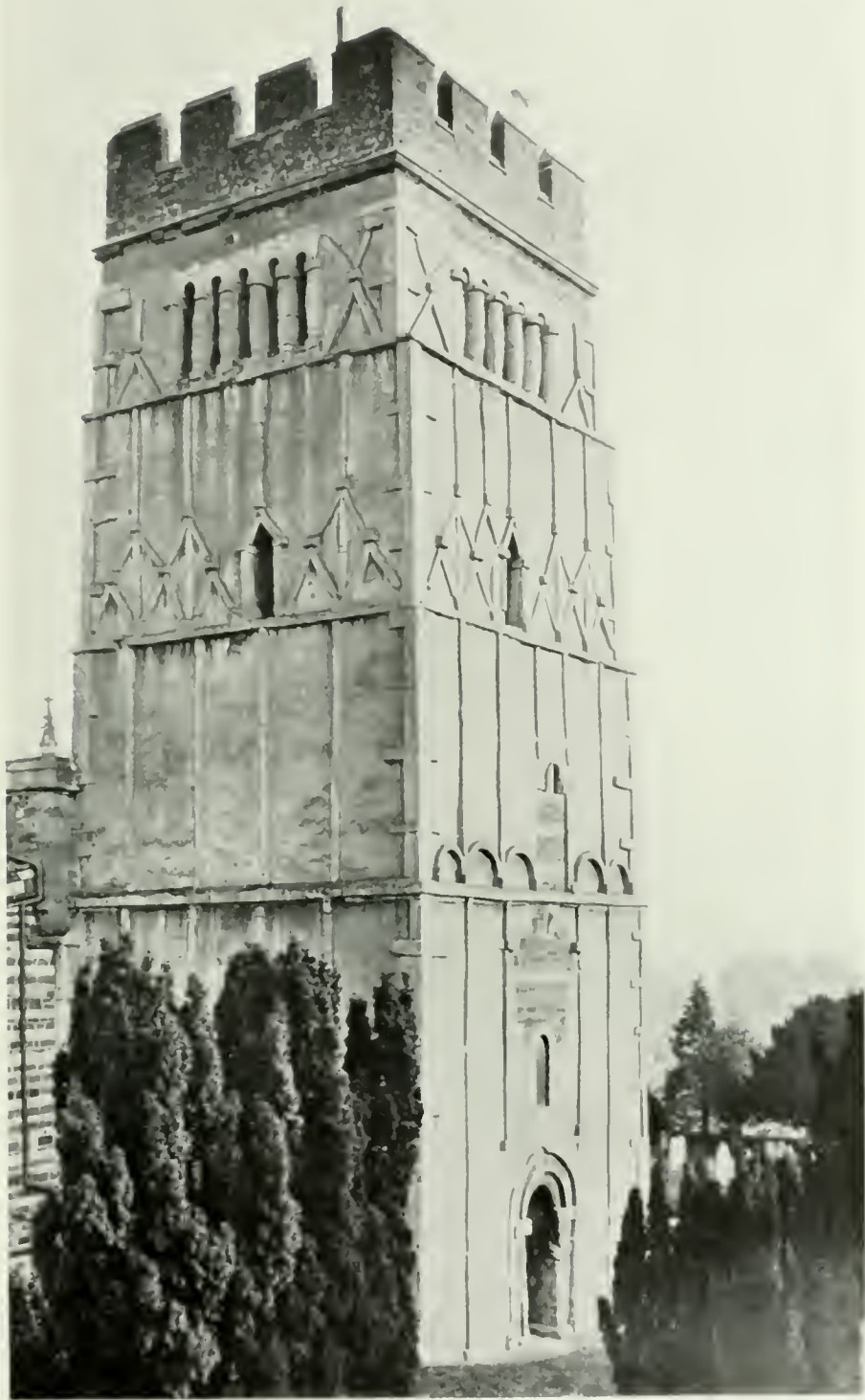
⁷ *Ibid.* ii, 263. The earliest and most elaborate shafts were turned in a lathe; the Earls Barton shafts are roughly hewn to shape by mallet and chisel, and may be regarded as clumsy imitations of the turned balusters.

⁸ *Arch. Jour.* lxi, 512.

⁹ *Ibid.*

¹⁰ One shaft has gone.

¹¹ *Assoc. Arch. Soc. Repts.* xxix, 405. Both windows are 13 in. from the aisle wall outside and their sills are 3 ft. 4 in. above the floor. The north window is 5 ft. high by 1 ft. 7 in. wide, the south window 3 ft. 11 in. by 1 ft. 4 in. They are probably of 13th-century date.



EARLS BARTON CHURCH: THE TOWER, FROM THE NORTH-WEST



EARLS BARTON CHURCH: DETAIL OF TOWER



EARLS BARTON CHURCH: SOUTH DOOR

13th-century work; it has a keel-shaped hood-mould and roll-moulded jambs.

The added portion of the chancel, about 20 ft. in length, has coupled angle buttresses, moulded plinth, and keel-shaped string-course at sill level,¹ the latter continued westward on the south side. The east window is of three grouped lancets with shafted mullions, moulded jambs,² and separate hood-moulds, and in the gable above is a sexfoil opening with continuous label. At the east end of the north wall is a single widely splayed lancet, but all the other windows in the chancel are insertions of 14th- and 15th-century date, each of two lights, that at the east end of the south wall being four-centred, the others square-headed. Below the modern parapet is a hollow string-course, apparently contemporary with the 14th-century windows. Internally, the keel-shaped string is repeated all round the 13th-century extension, but the wall below has modern panelling at the east end with a return on each side. The trefoiled piscina has a fluted projecting bowl and stone shelf and the triple stepped sedilia, as already stated, are made up from the displaced Norman wall arcade, with round chevron arches and shafts with cushion capitals.³

The 13th-century south arcade of the nave consists of three pointed arches of two chamfered orders, with hood-mould on one side, springing from octagonal piers with moulded capitals and bases, and from keel-shaped responds. The bases stand on square plinths of masonry probably portions of the 12th-century wall through which the arcade was cut. There is a keel-shaped string all round the aisle inside and out, and the shallow buttresses are contemporary with the walling, but all the windows are 14th-century insertions, with ogee heads and, except at the east end, of two trefoiled lights with elongated quatrefoil in the head; the east window is of three lights with reticulated tracery, and its sill is dropped inside as a reredos for the aisle altar. To the north of it is a rectangular aumbry, and in the south wall a trefoiled moulded piscina with plain circular bowl.

The later north arcade is also of three bays, with arches of two sunk-chamfered orders divided by a case-ment, springing from clustered piers consisting of four half-round shafts with small intervening rolls, and four responds of similar section, all with moulded capitals and bases. The north aisle walls were wholly rebuilt in the 14th century and have angle buttresses of two stages and a moulded string-course at sill level inside and out. The windows are of similar type to those in the south aisle, with moulded rear arches, and the doorway has a continuous moulding of three members. On the south side of the east window is an image-bracket with carved head and on the north another formed from a 13th-century capital, but no ritual arrangements have survived. In the north wall is a locker for a processional cross.

There are four square-headed clerestory windows of two trefoiled lights on each side. The porch has been

rebuilt on the old lines, much of the old masonry being re-used; the outer arch is of two orders on clustered shafts with moulded capitals and bases which are 14th-century work much restored. The side windows are modern.

The 15th-century traceried rood-screen has been much restored and painted;⁴ it has two subdivided openings on each side of the doorway and plain lower panels with traceried heads, carved rail and cornice, and vaulted cover. There is a modern rood with three figures.

The hexagonal dark oak Jacobean pulpit has five of its sides elaborately panelled in two tiers, the lower arched, the upper oblong; it stands on a modern stone base. The font dates from 1877 and is in the 13th-century style. There is a plain oak chest with the marks of three locks, and the royal arms of one of the Hanoverian Georges are over the tower arch. The seating and fittings are all modern.

The brass of John Muscote (d. 1512) and Alice his wife, formerly in the floor of the nave, is now on the south jamb of the tower arch. The figures of the man and wife and one of the evangelists' symbols⁵ remain, but the other symbols, the inscription, and the figures of four sons and twelve daughters are gone.⁶

In the church are preserved two quarries of glass from the old vicarage, with scratched inscriptions recording the marriage of Thomas Gery Bennet,⁷ 13 June 1745, and the birth of his son Thomas, 25 March 1748.

There are mural tablets, from 1790, to members of the Whitworth family, and on the outside of the south wall of the chancel is a memorial to James Harris, who died in 1605 aged 93, inscribed 'The loss of friends is much, the losse of time is more. The losse of Christ is much more worse, which no man can restore.'

There is a ring of eight bells, the treble, second, and fourth dated 1720, the third by Edward Arnold of St. Neots 1775, and the tenor by Thomas Eayre of Kettering 1761.⁸ The former fifth was recast and increased in weight, becoming the seventh, in 1935, when two new bells were given by the Barron Bell Trust, inscribed 'In the year of the King's Silver Jubilee'. All the bells were then rehung in a new oak frame.⁹

The plate is all modern and comprises a silver cup, paten, flagon, bread-holder, and alms dish of 1814, the first four given by Elizabeth Whitworth, spinster, in that year. There is also a pewter flagon. The alms dish was made from 'a silver cup with cover of silver' which is mentioned in 1647, and may have been Elizabethan.¹⁰

The registers before 1812 are as follows: (i) baptisms 1558-1686, 1691-2, 1705-28,¹¹ marriages 1559-68, 1579-87, 1591-1678, 1705-25, burials 1558-1678, 1682-85, 1705-28; (ii) baptisms 1730-69, 1770-5, 1777-83, marriages 1730-53, burials 1730-67, 1770-2, 1777-83; (iii) baptisms 1784-1812, burials 1789-

who probably cast the others of the same date. When Bridges wrote there were five bells, the second inscribed 'Robertus Skalis quondam vicarius de Lokington dedit hanc campanam': op. cit. ii, 138.

⁹ *Northampton Mercury*, 5 Apr. 1935.

¹⁰ Markham, *Ch. Plate of Northants*, 106.

¹¹ One entry each year in 1687, 1689, 1696, 1697, 1700, 1701, and 1702.

¹ At a height of 8 ft. above the ground.

² Internally the jambs as well as the mullions are shafted and have moulded capitals and bases; the rear arch is moulded.

³ The middle arch alone is perfect; the eastern arch was replaced by a 15th-century head when the window above was inserted.

⁴ The west side of the screen was decorated, the lower panels being painted with figures of saints unconventionally

treated, by Mr. Henry Bird in 1935.

⁵ That of St. Matthew.

⁶ The brass was originally at the west end of the nave. It was moved to its present position in 1905. The inscription is given in Bridges, *Hist. of Northants*, ii, 139.

⁷ Vicar 1745-87.

⁸ North, *Ch. Bells of Northants*, 254, where the inscriptions are given. The fifth is by Henry Penn of Peterborough,

A HISTORY OF NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

1812; (iv) marriages 1754-93. There is also a clerk's book containing entries of baptisms 1695-1705, marriages 1697-1702, and burials 1695-1704.

The advowson of the church of Earls Barton was part of the gift of Simon de St. Liz, Earl of Northampton, to the abbey of Delapré.¹ With the abbey the advowson continued until the reign of Henry VIII; but on several occasions different persons were patrons by permission of the abbeys.² In 1535 the profits issuing from the church were valued at £10.³ After the Dissolution the advowson was retained by the Crown until 1867.⁴ In 1868 it was held by Edward Thornton, and is now in the gift of the Martyrs Memorial Trust.⁵

The rectory of Earls Barton was let out to various tenants⁶ by the abbey, the annual rent in 1535 being £14.⁷ After the Dissolution the rectory was the subject of various grants by the Crown. In 1543 Sir William Parre obtained a life grant.⁸ In 1550 the king granted it to Ralph Sherman for a term of 21 years after the expiration of the grant to Parre.⁹ Elizabeth in 1567 granted the rectory for a term of 21 years to Christopher Lewis,¹⁰ from whom it descended to Clement Lewis and his heirs;¹¹ it remained in this family until 1623.¹² In 1656 the rectory was under sequestration¹³ and after that date the tithes from small parts of land were held by various tenants.¹⁴

William Farrow, who died 23 October 1750, gave a rent-charge of £1 10s. a year to buy coats for two poor men. This charge is paid out of Mercer's Farm and is

applied in the distribution of coats when there is sufficient in hand.

The charity of Henry Medbury, founded by will 27 December 1705 and regulated by a scheme of the Charity Commissioners dated 12 February 1892, is described under the parish of Islip. The trustees of the Earls Barton Charity, consisting of the vicar, the parish warden, and the chairman of the parish council, receive £3 yearly, which is distributed to the poor in small cash payments.

Elizabeth Whitworth, widow, by her will proved 1 June 1844, gave to her brother William £130 to purchase clothing for the poor, and by codicil to her will a further £100, the interest to be distributed on 24 December in half-crowns. These legacies are now represented by a sum of £156 6s. 5d. Consols producing £3 18s. yearly in dividends. The income is applied partly in clothing and partly in the distribution of half-crowns.

Mrs. Mary Whitworth's Almshouses for poor women, founded by will dated 16 February 1823, are regulated by a scheme of the Charity Commissioners dated 12 January 1877. The property consists of three cottages, the trustees being the lord of the manor of Earls Barton and three others.

Church and Clock Land. By an award of the Inclosure Commissioners in 1771 9 a. 2 r. 11 p. of land in East Rye Field were allotted to the churchwardens for the repair of the church and clock and other church expenses. The land is let in allotments and produced £36 in 1924.

The several sums of Stock are with the Official Trustees.

ECTON

Echentone, Ekenton, Eketon (xi-xv cent.); Ekton, Ecton (xv-xx cent.).

The parish of Ecton covers about 2,300 acres. It lies on the side of a hill which rises gradually from the River Nene, the southern boundary, to a height of 360 ft. towards the parishes of Sywell and Overstone on the north. The soil is light loam and gravel with a clay subsoil; the chief crops are wheat, beans, and roots. The south part of the parish is covered by a part of the irrigation farm of the Northampton Corporation, and the land near the river is liable to floods.

The village of Ecton is built along both sides of a road which leads from the river up the hill to the main road from Northampton to Wellingborough, on which lies the World's End Inn, mentioned in 1678¹⁵ but rebuilt about 1765. The approach to Ecton village from Northampton is shaded by two rows of ancient elms. A two-story house of ironstone, with mullioned windows, at the south-east end of the village bears the date 1695, another 1697, and a tablet on a shop shows that it was formerly the free school, built by John Palmer in 1752. The rectory house was originally erected by John Palmer, (rector 1641-79) but rebuilt in its present form by his

grandson Eyre Whalley in 1693. It is of two stories with a well-designed front elevation of dressed ironstone and a slated hipped roof. The interior has been much modernized, but retains a fine 17th-century oak staircase with turned balusters. In the landing window are the arms of John Palmer (1641), Thomas Palmer (1691), and Eyre Whalley (1735), rectors, and one of the upper rooms contains excellent 18th-century panelling.¹⁶ Ecton Hall, the seat of Lt.-Col. Sotheby, stands high, commanding extensive views. It has a good front, of ironstone, built in 1756, but incorporates work of an earlier date.¹⁷

John Cole in his account of the parish, written in 1825, says: 'There is a tradition that Ecton was formerly a market town, and that the market was held in a field now well known by the name of Dove-house Close, but there is no confirmation of this report to be found in the fragment of the usual market-cross in the village.' Ecton was the birthplace of Benjamin Franklin's father, whose family had lived in the parish upwards of three hundred years.¹⁸ From about 1687 to 1703 Henry Bagley, who is buried in the church, carried on a bell-foundry in Ecton.¹⁹ The Board school was built in 1876. There are Baptist and Methodist chapels. The

¹ Dugdale, *Mon.* v, 207.

² Epis. Regs. cited by Bridges, *Northants.* ii, 138.

³ *Valor Eccles.* (Rec. Com.), iv, 305.

⁴ Inst. Bks. (P.R.O.).

⁵ *Clergy Guides.*

⁶ Pat. 10 Eliz. pt. 5.

⁷ *Valor Eccles.* (Rec. Com.), iv, 305 and 321.

⁸ *L. and P. Hen. VIII*, xviii (1), 347.

⁹ *Cal. S.P. Dom.* 1547-80, p. 31.

¹⁰ Pat. R. 10 Eliz. pt. 5.

¹¹ Ibid. 35 Eliz. pt. 5.

¹² Recov. R. Mich. 21 Jas. I.

¹³ *Cal. S.P. Dom.* 1656-7, p. 192.

¹⁴ Feet of F. Northants. Trin. 10 Wm. and M.; *ibid.* Hil. 11 Wm. and M.; *ibid.* East. 10 Anne; *ibid.* East. 3 Geo. I.

¹⁵ *Ex inf.* Canon Jephson, rector (d. 1935).

¹⁶ There is a long description of the rectory as it was in 1825 in Cole's *Hist. of Ecton*, 44. It stands immediately north of the church.

¹⁷ A detailed description of the furniture and pictures is given by Cole, *op. cit.* 32-43.

¹⁸ Ibid. 57; Benj. Franklin, *Autobiog.* ch. i.

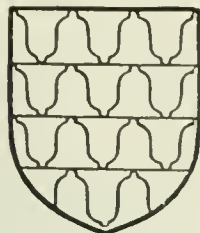
¹⁹ *V.C.H. Northants.* ii, 307.

population, which numbered 447 in 1931, is chiefly employed in agriculture. Ecton parish was inclosed in 1759.¹

British coins of the late Celtic Age have been found in the parish,² and Anglo-Saxon remains in the garden at Ecton House.³

In 1086 Henry de Ferrers held of the *MANORS* king 4 hides, valued at 100s., in Ecton;

Bundi had held them in the Confessor's time, when they had been worth £3.⁴ This land formed part of the honor of Tutbury. After the death of Henry de Ferrers the overlordship passed to his son Robert, 1st Earl of Derby, and with the other pos-



FERRERS. *Vairy or and gules.*



LANCASTER. *England with a label of France.*

sessions of the Earls of Derby and Ferrers became merged in the Duchy of Lancaster. The last mention of the overlordship occurs in 1575, when it was held as parcel of the Duchy by suit of court and 5s. 9d. rent.⁵ About 1428 Ecton passed to a younger branch of the Montgomery family, who held this manor, together with that of Cubley in Derbyshire, of the Tutbury honor. Between 1482 and 1529 Ecton is found held of the senior branch of the family as of their manor of Cubley.⁶

The first tenant in *ECTON* or *MONTGOMERIES MANOR* was Ralf, who held 4 hides of Henry de Ferrers in 1086.⁷ These hides were held at the time of the Northamptonshire Survey by William de Montgomery.⁸ Probably this land was part of the 4 knights' fees held in 1166 by Walter de Montgomery, from whom the land passed to William de Montgomery by 1177.⁹ This William was succeeded by Sir William, who held two fees in 1242.¹⁰ In 1284 William held 1 fee in Ecton and his son Ralph had $\frac{2}{3}$ of a fee¹¹ in the same place, which he held from Isabel de Forz, Countess of Devon.¹² In 1297 William de Montgomery held the manor of Ecton and manors in Derbyshire as 7 fees.¹³ By the year 1316 Walter de Montgomery, probably his son, held Ecton;¹⁴ he died in 1324



MONTGOMERY. *Or an eagle azure.*

and was succeeded by his grandson Walter,¹⁵ who was holding in 1346. This Walter's younger son Walter¹⁶ had 1½ fees in 1428;¹⁷ his brother Nicholas succeeded to the manor of Cubley in Derby, and from him and his heirs the younger branch held Ecton.¹⁸ In 1482 a John Montgomery died seised of a part of Ecton Manor which had been settled on him and Margaret, daughter of William Holdenby, on their marriage in 1449. The residue had been granted in 1475 to John's son William and his wife Elizabeth; William, therefore, succeeded to the whole of the manor.¹⁹ Michael Montgomery died holding the manor in 1507, and Thomas Montgomery, his kinsman, succeeded to the estate,²⁰ which on his death in 1529 descended to his son Michael, then aged 14.²¹ Thomas left an annuity of 10 marks out of the manor to his younger brothers,²² which was the subject of litigation after his death.²³ In 1567 Lewis Montgomery, son of Michael,²⁴ settled the manor on his wife Jane, daughter of Sir Robert Lane. He appears to have left two parts of Ecton Manor to her for her life, the remaining part to Jane, probably a daughter, the wife of Thomas Eaton.²⁵ The manor was ultimately to revert to his brother William Montgomery, who in 1574, together with his brother Theophilus, alienated their reversionary interest in Ecton to Thomas Catesby.²⁶ Thomas Catesby died in 1592 and was succeeded by his son George, then about 15 years old.²⁷ George still held



ISTED. *Gules a chevron vair between three talbots' heads razed or.*



SOTHEYBY. *Argent a fesse vert between three crosslets sable with three talbots argent on the fesse.*

the manor in 1650.²⁸ From Thomas Catesby, who died seised of the manor in 1699, it descended to his daughter²⁹ Elizabeth,³⁰ who married Ralph Freeman. In 1712 Ecton Manor was alienated by Ralph Freeman to Thomas Isted,³¹ who was succeeded in 1731 by his son Ambrose. In 1745 Ambrose Isted received licence to inclose certain highways in Ecton provided he made another common highway in his own lands.³² He died in 1781 and his estates devolved on his son Samuel; his daughter Mary married William Sotheby.³³ Samuel Isted died in 1827 and his son Ambrose died without issue in 1881, when Ecton passed to his first cousin once removed, C. W. H. Sotheby,³⁴ and is at present the property of Lt.-Col. Herbert George Sotheby, D.S.O.

¹ Priv. Loc. Act, 32 Geo. II, cap. 1.

² P.C.H. Northants. i, 155.

³ Ibid. i, 236.

⁴ Ibid. i, 333.

⁵ Mem. R. L.T.R. Mich. 18 Eliz.

⁶ Chan. Inq. p.m. 22 Edw. IV, 41; *ibid.* (Ser. 2), xxi, 8.

⁷ P.C.H. Northants. i, 333.

⁸ Ibid. 382. This may be either a predecessor of Walter or his successor.

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ Bk. of Fees, 934.

¹¹ Feud. Aids, iv, 14.

¹² In 1268 Hen. III granted Isabel in marriage to his son Edmund Plantagenet, sometimes called Earl of Derby, but the

marriage never took place and the following year Edmund married her daughter Aveline: G.E.C. Complete Peerage (2nd ed.), i, 356.

¹³ Cal. Inq. p.m. ii, p. 311.

¹⁴ Feud. Aids, iv, 27.

¹⁵ Chan. Inq. p.m. 17 Edw. II, no. 66.

¹⁶ Feet of F. Derb. East. 38 Edw. III.

¹⁷ Feud. Aids, iv, 46.

¹⁸ Feet of F. Derb. East. 38 Edw. III.

¹⁹ Chan. Inq. p.m. 22 Edw. IV, no. 41.

²⁰ Ibid. (Ser. 2), xxi, 8.

²¹ Exch. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), file 692, 4.

²² Ct. of Req. i (183).

²³ Ibid. i (132).

²⁴ Harl. MS. 1187, fol. 566.

²⁵ Chan. Proc. (Ser. 2), bdle. 166, no. 12.

²⁶ Feet of F. Northants. 28 East. 16 Eliz. Two years later Arthur the youngest brother gave up his right in the manor to Thomas Catesby: Feet of F. Northants. East. 18 Eliz.

²⁷ Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), cexxxii, 73; Chan. Proc. (Ser. 2), bdle. 273, no. 27.

²⁸ Recov. R. East. 1650, ro. 172.

²⁹ Bridges, Northants. ii, 142.

³⁰ Feet of F. Northants. Mich. 11 Wm. III.

³¹ Ibid. Mich. 11 Anne.

³² Pat. 18 Geo. II, pt. ii, m. 38.

³³ Burke, Landed Gentry, 1880.

³⁴ Information supplied by the late General Sotheby.

A HISTORY OF NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

In the 15th century Sir Thomas Tresham of Sywell held a considerable estate in Ecton described as *ECTON MANOR*. In 1462 Edward IV granted to John Donne, one of the ushers of his chamber, the manor of Ecton recently forfeited by Sir Thomas Tresham.¹ In 1480 Edward IV granted these same lands to his servant Wm. Sayer and his wife for life,² and four years later they were bestowed upon Edward Brampton and his heirs male.³ After this date there is no further mention of the Tresham estate, but it is possibly identical with the manor held by Francis Catesby in 1527, when he willed that Francis, second son of his nephew Anthony

licence to alienate it to William Nicholls.¹² In 1585 Augustine, second son of Thomas Nicholls and grandson of the original grantee, alienated his manor to Edward Stonyng and Julia his wife,¹³ who in 1586 conveyed it to John Freeman.¹⁴ In May 1606 John Freeman settled part of his estate on his son Francis on his marriage with Thomasine Andrews, with remainder to his daughter Margaret, wife of Sir Robert Osborne. At the death of John Freeman in 1615 his heir was his grand-daughter Catherine, wife of Sir Edward Gorges and daughter of Margaret Osborne deceased,¹⁵ and in 1627 they transferred the manor to Sir Anthony

Haselwood.¹⁶ From this date until 1678 there is no mention of the manor; but in 1678 Thomas Hackoll bought the manor of Ecton, situated in the Abbot's or Prior's Hyde, from William Bernard for the sum of £650.¹⁷ In 1689 Nicholas, son of Thomas Hackoll leased this property for a term of 900 years to Henry Bagley, bell-founder in Ecton,¹⁸ and in the same year he sold him the mansion house of Ecton.¹⁹ After this date no further trace of the Warden manor has been found.

In 1086 there were two mills in Ecton worth 14s.²⁰ Of these mills one remained attached to the main manor (q.v.), the other appears to have passed to the abbey of Warden which possessed a mill in Ecton as early as 1291.²¹

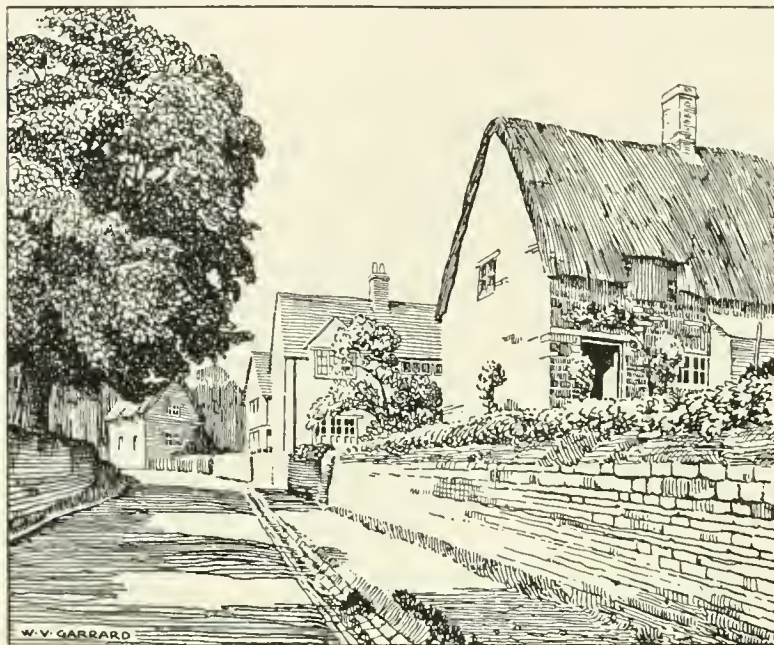
In 1629 Charles I granted a court leet and view of frankpledge in Ecton to Robert Owen and his heirs.²²

Cole (c. 1825) states that there is said to have been a nunnery or cell subordinate to Delapré Abbey, and describing Ecton House he writes: 'At the back of the house is a yard bounded by high walls, which still retains the name of Nuns' Court.'²³ There is no record of any land in the parish having belonged to the nuns, but in 1538 'all liberties belonging to the Priory of St. Mary' in Ecton were granted to Anthony Denny and Joan Champernowne, whom he was going to marry.²⁴

The parish church of *ST. MARY CHURCH MAGDALEN* consists of chancel, 41 ft.

by 14 ft. 10 in., with north and south chapels;²⁵ clerestoried nave, 59 ft. by 20 ft.; north aisle, 12 ft. wide; south aisle, 9 ft. 6 in. wide; north and south porches, and west tower, 12 ft. 6 in. square, all these measurements being internal. The chapels are continuations eastward of the aisles and cover the chancel for about half its length.

The church is built throughout of ironstone rubble except the later upper stage of the tower which is of



ECTON: THE VILLAGE

Catesby, should succeed to his manor of Ecton. He died the following year and Anthony, son of his brother Humphrey and father of Francis mentioned above, then held the estate, probably in trust for his son.⁴ Francis Catesby the younger died in 1537, his heir being his elder son Thomas, then aged 3.⁵ In 1575 Thomas, then of full age, claimed $\frac{1}{3}$ of his father's lands,⁶ and in 1581 he compounded for the estate with his mother Mary and her husband Nicholas Thorne, who surrendered it to him in 1598.⁷ To this Thomas the Montgomeries alienated their more important manor of Ecton (q.v.) in 1574,⁸ in which this property becomes henceforward merged.

A third manor was formerly held by the abbey of Warden. In 1291 the abbot held lands in Ecton valued yearly at £3 13s. 7d.;⁹ in 1535 these, including the grange of Ecton, were valued at 61s. 6d.¹⁰ After the Dissolution, the estate, called *ECTON MANOR*, was granted in 1540 at a yearly rent of 6s. to John Gostwyk and Joan his wife;¹¹ they in the same year received

¹ *Cal. Pat.* 1461-7, p. 111; *ibid.* p. 431.

² *Ibid.* 1476-85, p. 201.

³ *Ibid.* p. 416.

⁴ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), xlviii, 170.

⁵ *Ibid.* cxiv, 9.

⁶ *Mem. R. L.T.R.* Mich. 18 Eliz. m. 44.

⁷ *Chan. Proc. C. c.* 14 Eliz. no. 44.

⁸ Feet of F. Northants. East. 16 Eliz.

⁹ *Pope Nich. Tax.* (Rec. Com.), 54.

¹⁰ *Valor Eccles.* (Rec. Com.), iv, 193.

¹¹ *Pat.* 31 Hen. VIII, pt. i, m. 16.

¹² *L. and P. Hen. VIII*, xv, p. 342.

¹³ *Recov. R. Hil.* 27 Eliz. ro. 12; Feet of F. Northants. Mich. 27 & 28 Eliz.

¹⁴ *Ibid.* Mich. 28 & 29 Eliz.

¹⁵ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), cccxlix, 157.

¹⁶ Feet of F. Northants. East. 3 Chas. I.

¹⁷ *Add. Chart.* 24140.

¹⁸ *Ibid.* 24144.

¹⁹ *Ibid.* 24145.

²⁰ *V.C.H. Northants.* i, 333.

²¹ *Pope Nich. Tax.* (Rec. Com.), 54.

²² *Cal. S.P. Dom.* 1629-31, p. 184.

²³ *Cole, History of Ecton*, 31.

²⁴ *L. and P. Hen. VIII*, xiii (1), 384 (47).

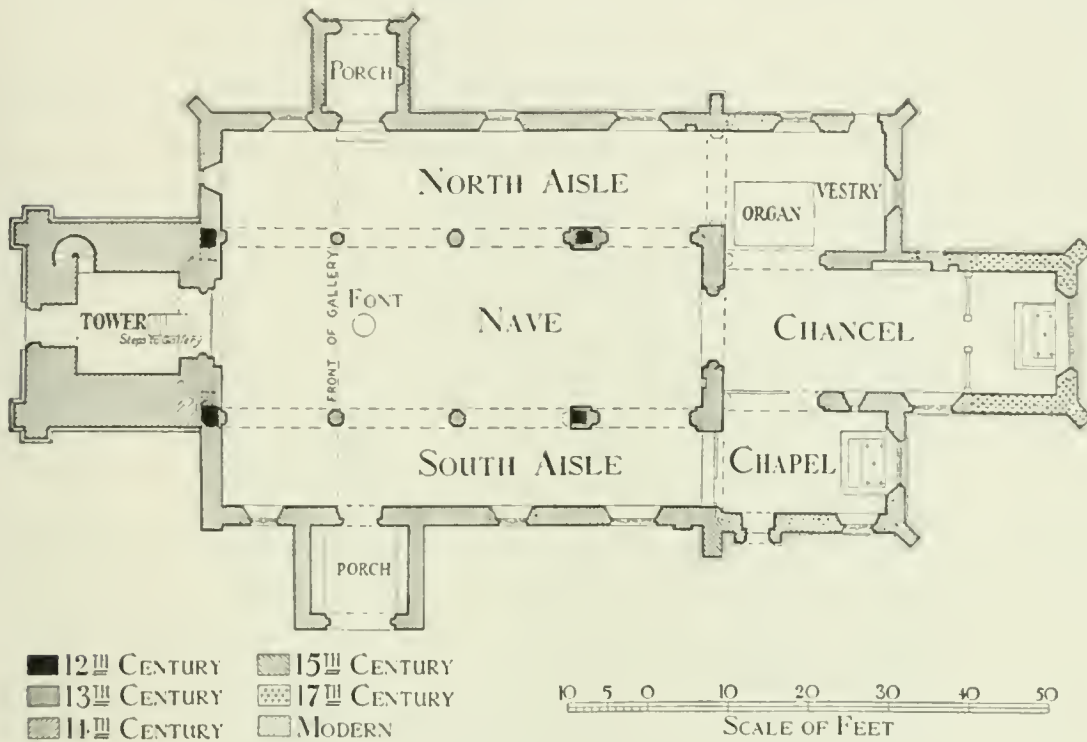
²⁵ The north chapel is used as a vestry and organ-chamber.

wrought freestone, and has plain parapets and low-pitched roofs. The nave was slated in 1814,¹ but elsewhere the roofs are leaded.

The building in the main is of 13th-century date, with alterations and additions in the 14th and 15th centuries, but it may have developed from a 12th-century aisleless church with central tower, north and south transepts and short chancel. The nave of this early building covered the area of the three western bays of the present nave, and the eastern bay of which represents either the crossing of the transept or an extension eastward of the nave. In the 13th century

wards erected and the tower arch blocked. The work then done still remains, but the chancel was opened out again about eighty years ago and has since been restored.⁵ The north chapel, or vestry, was rebuilt in 1890, and in 1908 the south chapel was rebuilt and extended about 6 ft. eastwards.⁶

The chancel has a moulded string externally at sill level and an east window of four lights with modern Decorated tracery and moulded rear-arch, the internal shafted jambs of which are of 13th-century date: there is also a three-light window with modern tracery in both the north and south walls. The 17th-century north



PLAN OF ECTON CHURCH

aisles were added, the chancel rebuilt on a larger scale, and a new tower erected at the west end, the arch of which still stands. In the 14th century the tower was rebuilt in its present form, the north aisle widened and the chapels north and south of the chancel added. The nave arcades seem to have been refashioned at this time, retaining, however, many 13th-century features. The north porch is an addition of the 15th century and during the same period the tower was heightened and the clerestory added. The chancel is said to have been lengthened about 12 ft. in the 17th century, when a doorway was cut through the north wall, and then or at some later time in the long Palmer-Whalley régime² the chancel arch was filled in,³ and the north and south arches to the chapels obstructed by large memorial tablets,⁴ the chancel thus being cut off from the rest of the church and used as the burial-place and private chapel of the rectors. About 1825 the church was ceiled and newly pewed, and a west gallery was after-

wards erected and the tower arch blocked. The work then done still remains, but the chancel was opened out again about eighty years ago and has since been restored.⁵ The north chapel, or vestry, was rebuilt in 1890, and in 1908 the south chapel was rebuilt and extended about 6 ft. eastwards.⁶

The nave consists of four irregularly spaced bays. The eastern arch on either side springs from half-octagonal responds with moulded capitals and bases, and all the arches are of two chamfered orders. On the north side the westernmost pier is octagonal and the other circular, but on the south both are octagonal, all

¹ Cole, *Hist. of Ecton* (MS. copy in Northampton Pub. Lib.), 17.

² Members of the Palmer and Whalley families were rectors from 1641 to 1849.

³ Information from Canon Jephson, late rector. Cule in 1825 says that the chancel

was then separated from the church by an iron railing.

⁴ They are now placed on the aisle walls near the north and south doorways.

⁵ During the incumbency of the Rev.

F. C. Edwards, 1900-08.

⁶ It is inclosed by screens: the cost was borne by Major-General F. E. Sotheby (d. 1909). The altar and reredos were erected by his widow in 1911.

A HISTORY OF NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

with moulded capitals and bases. The responds are octagonal, but the third arch (from the west) on the south side rests on a moulded corbel attached to the masonry pier. At the east end the aisles are separated from the chapels by pointed arches of two chamfered orders. The aumbry in connexion with the former aisle altar remains in the north wall, and at the east end of the nave, south of the chancel arch, is a trefoiled recess high in the wall.

The south doorway is of two hollow-chamfered orders stopped above the impost and hood-mould with heads: the jambs are only slightly chamfered. The early-14th-century north doorway is of three moulded orders, the middle one on shafts with moulded capitals and bases, the others wave-moulded; the hood-mould terminates in heads. The floor of the south porch is level with that of the nave, but on the north there is a descent of three steps. In the south-west angle of the north porch is a stoup with ogee-headed canopy trefoiled within, and in the east wall a rectangular recess. Above the outer arch is a trefoiled niche. An inscription on the north-east buttress reads: 'Aº dni. mº. cccc. lvj edificatur'.

At the west end of the north aisle is an original lancet window, the jamb only restored, but the other windows of the aisle are modern. The windows of the south aisle are square-headed, and in two of them the mullions have been renewed in wood. The clerestory windows are also square-headed.

The tower is of four stages, with moulded plinth, west doorway, coupled buttresses, and vice in the north-west angle. Above the doorway is a vesica-shaped quatrefoil, and in the second stage facing south an ogee-headed opening; otherwise the two lower stages are blank. The third stage was the 14th-century bell-chamber story and has a pointed window of two cinquefoiled lights with moulded head and jambs on each face. The later upper story sets back and has double bell-chamber windows of two cinquefoiled lights with transom at mid-height, and a band of quatrefoils and blank shields above. The pierced quatrefoil parapet has octagonal angle pinnacles, but a wooden lantern with 'leaded dome and cross at the top', which formerly surmounted the tower, has disappeared. The 13th-century tower arch is blocked and partly hidden by the gallery, but it consists of four chamfered orders, the innermost springing from half-round responds with moulded capitals and bases.

The font, which has a circular bowl, was in use in 1825 as a horse-trough at a neighbouring farm,² and its carved ornamentation has suffered but it is apparently not earlier than the 14th century. The hexagonal wooden pulpit is part of an old three-decker.

In the chancel is a mural monument, erected in 1732, to John Palmer, archdeacon of Northampton and rector of Ecton 1641-79, with bust by Rysbrack; one to his son-in-law Samuel Freeman, dean of Peter-

borough, who died on a visit to Ecton in 1707 and was buried there, and a third to John Palmer, esquire, patron (d. 1763). The south chapel contains a monument to Ann Isted (d. 1763) and other members of the family. In the north aisle is a modern bronze tablet to Benjamin Franklin, the American statesman (1706-90).³

The royal arms of George III (before 1801), formerly over the chancel arch, are now at the west end of the south aisle.

A circular floor-drain stone is built into the south aisle wall outside, and on the east jamb of the south porch is a scratch dial of wheel type, with two concentric circles and lines radiating in all directions.⁴

There are six bells, the treble dated 1749, the second (old treble) by James Keene of Woodstock 1612, and the others by Hugh Watts of Leicester, the third and fifth being dated 1612, the fourth 1634, and the tenor 1622.⁵ A clock was erected in 1630 and a set of chimes in 1690.⁶

The plate consists of a silver cover paten of 1569, a cup of 1591, an alms dish of 1673 with the arms of John Palmer, rector, two cups and patens, and a flagon of 1728, and a large spoon of 1908.⁷

The registers before 1812 are as follows: (i) baptisms, marriages, and burials 1559-84,⁸ 1591-1637; (ii) baptisms 1637-53, 1656-1754, marriages 1638-53, 1662-1753, burials 1638-53, 1659-1754; (iii) a small parchment book kept by the 'Register' under the Protectorate, containing births 1653-6, marriages 1654-5, burials 1653-7; (iv) baptisms 1754-April 1810, burials 1754-1812; (v) baptisms May 1810-1812; (vi) marriages 1754-80; (vii) marriages 1780-1812.

The advowson was attached to the *ADVOWSON* main manor, presentation being made in 1220 by the Earl of Derby as guardian of the heir of William de Montgomery,⁹ and in 1244 by Sir William de Montgomery.¹⁰ In 1275 Nicholas de Cogenhoe and Amice his wife, who had it of the gift of John de Montgomery, restored it to William de Montgomery.¹¹ It remained appurtenant to the manor (q.v.) until 1712 when Ralph Freeman transferred it to Thomas Palmer whose son, then rector, held it in 1720.¹² John Palmer was patron from 1732¹³ to 1758.¹⁴ In 1762 Barbara Whalley presented Peter Whalley, the editor of Bridges's *Northamptonshire*.¹⁵ The Rev. John Christopher Whalley held it in 1853 but subsequently sold it. Since 1874 the right of presentation has been exercised by the Crown. In 1291 the value of the church of Ecton was £20¹⁶ and in 1535 £21 18s. 7d.¹⁷

John Barker, who died in or about 1729, devised 1 acre of land in West Holme, the rents to be applied by the rector and churchwardens in providing coats for two poor men. This charity and the charity of the Rev. Palmer Whalley following are regulated by a Scheme of the Charity Commissioners dated 3 January 1893.

¹ Cole, *Hist. of Ecton*, 9. The dome and cross were repaired in 1811, when the vane was heightened: the height of the tower is given as 78 ft. 8 in.: to the top of the vane the height was 114 ft. The weathercock was removed and four vanes placed on the pinnacles in 1849.

² *Ibid.* 49. It was in the farmyard of Mr. William Fascutt. The bowl only is ancient.

³ On the north side of the churchyard are the graves, marked by headstones, of Thomas Franklin (d. 1702) and Eleanor

his wife (d. 1711), uncle and aunt of the statesman. The tablet was erected in 1912.

⁴ *Assoc. Arch. Soc. Reports*, xxiii, 361; Horne, *Primitive Sun-Dials*, 12.

⁵ North, *Ch. Bells of Northants*, 259, where the inscriptions are given. The bells were rehung in 1912: prior to 1749 the number was five.

⁶ The chimes played at 4, 6, 8, and 12 o'clock, but are now out of use.

⁷ Markham, *Ch. Plate of Northants*, 113.

⁸ 'From that year (1584) to the year 1591 nothing is found yet extant': Entry

in Register.

⁹ *Rot. Hug. de Welles* (Cant. & York Soc.), ii, 104.

¹⁰ *Rot. Rob. Grosseteste* (Cant. & York Soc.), 220.

¹¹ Close 3 Edw. I, m. 17 d.; De Banco R. 7, m. 39.

¹² Bridges, *Northants*, ii, 143.

¹³ *Inst. Bks.* (P.R.O.).

¹⁴ *Priv. & Loc. Act*, 32 Geo. II, cap. 1.

¹⁵ Cole, *History of Ecton*, 17.

¹⁶ *Pope Nich. Tax.* (Rec. Com.), 37.

¹⁷ *Valor Eccles.* (Rec. Com.), iv, 305.



ECTON CHURCH, FROM THE SOUTH-EAST



HOLCOT CHURCH, FROM THE SOUTH-EAST

The land is let for £1 10s. yearly, and the income is applied in the distribution of coats when sufficient funds are available.

The Rev. Palmer Whalley by codicil to his will dated 10 September 1801 gave a sum of 3 per cent. Consols, the interest to be distributed in bread. The endowment now consists of £166 13s. 4d. Consols producing £4 3s. 4d. yearly in dividends which is applied by the rector and churchwardens in the distribution of bread.

The charity of Thomas Catesby founded by will about 1698 is regulated by a Scheme of the Charity Commissioners dated 3 January 1893. The property consists of 12 a. 2 r. 5 p. of land let in allotments and £93 14s. 7d. Consols, the whole producing £30 9s. 4d. in 1924. £1 per annum is distributed in bread to the poor and is called the Dole Charity of Thomas Catesby, and the remainder of the income is applied in apprenticeship premiums.

HOLCOT

Holecote (xi–xiv cent.); Hulcota (xii cent.); Hohe-cota (xiii cent.); Hocott (xviii cent.).

The parish of Holcot comprises 1,399 acres. The soil is red loam, the subsoil stone. The ground slopes towards the east and south, from about 270 ft. to about 300 ft. A branch of the Northampton and Kettering road leads north-westwards through the parish to Holcot village, which clusters about the meeting-place of this branch road and roads to Moulton, Brixworth, and Walgrave. The church and a Methodist chapel stand in the village.

It is the traditional birthplace of the Dominican theologian, Robert Holcot, who died in 1349.¹ An Inclosure Act for this parish was obtained in 1777.²

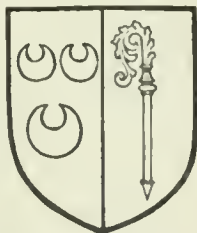
At the time of the Domesday Survey *MANORS* Hugh held of the Countess Judith 1 hide and 1½ virgates of land in *HOLCOT* which were worth 20s.³ This overlordship afterwards passed with Countess Judith's holding in Yardley Hastings (q.v.). The 12th-century survey states that 1 hide and 2 small virgates of land in Holcot were of the fee of her successor in that place, David I of Scotland.⁴ The manor was held as the fourth part of a knight's fee.⁵ In 1349, when it was extended as worth 20s. a year and said to lie in Wold and Holcot, it formed part of the dower of Agnes, Lady Pembroke;⁶ in 1376 part of that of Anne, Lady Pembroke.⁷

The mesne tenants of part of this holding were for a time a family named Vitor. In 1241 the service due by Simon Vitor for the moiety of the fourth part of a knight's fee in Draughton and Holcot was assigned to Henry de Hastings and his wife Ada,⁸ and in the following year Simon and his partners (*participes*) held a quarter fee in Holcot.⁹ Simon's successor was his son John,¹⁰ and Roger Vitor was one of the tenants of a quarter fee in Wold and Holcot in 1325¹¹ and 1349.¹² He seems to have died about 1366,¹³ after which date this family disappears. Geoffrey, son of Philip, who held part of this quarter fee in 1323,¹⁴ was probably identical with Geoffrey Garnel, who held it in 1325 with Roger

Vitor. Yet another mesne tenant in 1325¹⁵ was the Abbot of Pipewell, who is mentioned in 1376 as the sole mesne tenant of this quarter fee, for which he paid a rent of 20s. a year,¹⁶ its full value by the extent of 1349. At the time of its dissolution, the abbey was receiving a rent of 18s. a year from Holcot.¹⁷ In 1546, lands in Holcot, in the tenure of John Hyll and lately of Pipewell Abbey, were granted to George Rythe and Thomas Grantham of Lincoln's Inn.¹⁸ If any manorial rights had belonged to this property they had probably lapsed long before this date.

The Domesday Survey states that 2 hides and 2½ virgates of land in *HOLCOT* belonged to the manor of Brixworth.¹⁹ In the 12th-century survey this holding is described as 2½ hides and 1 small virgate of the fee of William de Courcy.²⁰ The overlordship passed with that of Brixworth (q.v.) to the earls of Aumale. The mesne tenancy also coincided with that of Brixworth (q.v.), until it came to Sir James Harrington, knight, who died in 1497, leaving as his heirs ten daughters, of whom Alice²¹ married Ralph Standish of Standish.²² Probably, therefore, this holding or part of it passed to Thomas Chipsey, grocer of Northampton, who at his death in 1544 was said to be seised of a manor of Holcot and certain lands there called Standish Lands and Campion's Lands. The latter may have derived their name from William Campion, who held in Holcot between 1515 and 1530, having succeeded his father John son of Thomas Campion.²³ Thomas Chipsey's heirs were his daughters, Agnes wife of Edmund Kaysho and Joan wife of Thomas Knight,²⁴ but in 1541 he had conveyed lands in Holcot, which probably included his reputed manor, and lands and a rent elsewhere to the mayor of Northampton and other trustees to 'provide an honest and sufficient learned master or person to teach grammar within the town of Northampton'. This was the foundation of Northampton Grammar School.²⁵

The church of *ST. MARY AND ALL CHURCH SAINTS* stands on the west side of the village and consists of the chancel, 27 ft. by 15 ft. 6 in.; clerestoried nave, 45 ft. by 14 ft. 2 in.; north and south aisles, 10 ft. 6 in. and 12 ft. 8 in. wide respectively; south porch; and embattled west tower, 11 ft. 8 in. square, all these measurements being internal. There is an organ-chamber on the north side of the chancel.



PIPEWELL ABBEY. *Argent three crescents gules impaling azure a crozier in pale or.*

¹ *Dict. Nat. Biog.*

² *Priv. Act* 17 Geo. III, cap. 13.

³ *F.C.H. Northants.* i, 353.

⁴ *Ibid.* 382.

⁵ *Bk. of Fees*, 938; *Cal. Close*, 1237–42, p. 369; 1346–9, p. 581; 1374–7, p. 189; *Cal. Inq. p.m.* v, p. 231; vi, p. 388; ix, p. 122.

⁶ *Cal. Close*, 1346–9, p. 581.

⁷ *Ibid.* 1374–7, p. 189.

⁸ *Cal. Close*, 1237–42, p. 369.

⁹ *Bk. of Fees*, 938.

¹⁰ *Cartul. of Osney* (Oxf. Hist. Soc.), iv, 307. ¹¹ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* vi, p. 388.

¹² *Ibid.* ix, p. 122; *Cal. Close*, 1346–9, p. 581.

¹³ *Cal. Fine R.* iv, 344.

¹⁴ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* v, p. 234; vi, p. 391.

¹⁵ *Ibid.* vi, p. 391; cf. *ibid.* ix, p. 122; *Cal. Close*, 1346–9, p. 581.

¹⁶ *Cal. Close*, 1374–7, p. 189.

¹⁷ *Valor Eccles.* (Rec. Com.), iv, 294.

¹⁸ *L. and P. Hen. VIII*, xxi (1), p. 243.

¹⁹ *F.C.H. Northants.* i, 306.

²⁰ *Ibid.* i, 382.

²¹ *Cal. Inq. p.m. Hen. VII*, i, 1178.

²² *Bridges, Hist. of Northants.* ii, 81.

²³ *Early Chan. Proc.* 195 (22).

²⁴ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Scr. 2), lxxii, 65.

²⁵ *F.C.H. Northants.* i, 235.

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The west end of the south aisle is of 13th-century date, and retains two windows of that period, a single lancet in the west wall, and a double lancet with single hood-mould in the south wall west of the porch.¹ The south doorway is also of this date; it has a pointed arch of two square orders on moulded impostes, the outer jambs being chamfered and the inner square. The chancel and nave were rebuilt about 1350 and the tower somewhat later, though the upper part may have been reconstructed in the 15th century when the clerestory and the porch were added. In 1845 the chancel was restored, its roof heightened, and a vestry built on the north side: the nave was restored and re-roofed in 1889, a west gallery removed, the tower arch opened out, and the vestry turned into an organ-chamber.

There is not sufficient evidence to determine the extent of the 13th-century church, but a portion of string-course in the east wall of the south aisle, similar to that of the west end, suggests that the aisle was then the same length as now. The south aisle is 2 ft. wider than the north.

The building is of rubble, with modern slated low-pitched roof to the chancel and embattled parapets to nave and south aisle. The north aisle parapet is plain. The chancel has a modern east window of three lights and on the south side two square-headed three-light windows. The north wall is blank except for a modern arch to the organ-chamber. Below the south-west window are the remains of what may have been a low-side window.² There is a piscina but no sedilia: the chancel arch is of two chamfered orders on responds composed of three half-rounds with moulded capitals and bases. A wrought iron screen and gates, of 17th-century domestic workmanship, were fixed at the chancel arch in 1921.

The nave arcades consist of three pointed arches of two chamfered orders, springing from piers composed of four half-rounds with small attached shafts between, with moulded capitals and bases. The capitals on the north and south sides differ in design and the responds are simple half-rounds. The two windows in the south aisle resemble those in the chancel, but only one retains its 14th-century tracery. In the north aisle are two pointed windows of two cinquefoiled lights with quatrefoils in the head, and a three-light window with modern reticulated tracery. The east window of the aisle, which has reticulated tracery, now opens to the organ-chamber. The north doorway is blocked. The clerestory has four square-headed windows of two trefoiled lights on each side.

The tower is of three stages with moulded plinth and flat clasping buttresses two-thirds of its height. The west window is modern, but on the south side is an original quatrefoil opening within a circle. The pointed bell-chamber windows are of two trefoiled lights with quatrefoil in the head. There is a vice in the south-west angle. The tower arch is very lofty, of two moulded orders to the nave, the inner resting on half-round responds with moulded capitals and bases. The tower was repaired in 1922.

The font is of 14th-century date with circular moulded bowl and modern shafted stem. The staples of

the cover remain. At the west end of the south aisle are the remains of a wall painting discovered in 1889.³ Recently numerous other paintings have been discovered, mainly of 14th-century date. Adjoining the earlier find is a much-defaced subject which probably portrays the Incredulity of St. Thomas. Near the south door is the Resurrection. In the nave are various fragments mostly of post-Reformation date. In the north aisle is a finely executed Martyrdom of St. Thomas of Canterbury, depicted with an unusual fidelity to historical detail. Other subjects are St. Catherine before the Emperor, a group of Apostles, and several scenes difficult to identify. On the splays of the windows are single figures of saints, including St. Andrew, while the soffits of the window arches are decorated with a bold scroll pattern in red. There are many evidences of later schemes superimposed on these paintings. The work is of considerable artistic merit, the figure drawing and manipulation of the draperies being most accomplished. The pulpit and other fittings are modern, but some Elizabethan woodwork is preserved on the sill of the east window of the south aisle.⁴ There are also fragments of the 15th-century rood-screen. A Jacobean altar table, removed from the chancel in 1933, has been placed in the south aisle.

There is a scratch dial adjoining the south doorway. A piece of lead, formerly on the nave roof, on which is cut a man's head and date 1666, has now been framed and hangs in the church. The royal arms of Queen Anne, dated 1711, on canvas, hang over the chancel arch. In the sanctuary is a 17th-century oak chest.

There are four bells, the treble by Henry Penn of Peterborough 1703, the second a recasting by Taylor in 1899 of a late medieval bell inscribed: 'Huius sancti Petri', the third by Edward Newcombe of Leicester, and the tenor by Taylor of Loughborough 1899.⁵

The plate consists of a silver cup and paten of 1834 given by Robert Onebye Walker, a silver-gilt paten given about 1920, and a silver-plated flagon. There are also two pewter plates and a pewter flagon.⁶ A silver chalice and paten were presented in 1934 by the Confraternity of the Blessed Sacrament. A Sacrament house was cut in the north wall of the chancel in 1933 and framed with old woodwork from a reredos formerly in the chapel of Magdalen College School, Brackley.

The registers before 1812 are as follows: (i) all entries 1559-99, baptisms 1600-40, 1662-1762, marriages 1600-39, 1662-81, 1695-1705, 1716-54, burials 1600-41, 1662-1762; (ii) baptisms and burials 1764-1812; (iii) marriages 1755-1812. In 1638 sixty persons are recorded to have died of the plague. The churchwardens' accounts begin in 1776.

The stump of an old cross, formerly in the rector's paddock, at the corner of the road leading to Walgrave, was removed to the churchyard in December 1885 and placed opposite the porch.

The church of Holcot evidently belonged to the fee held by David I in the 12th century, for it passed to Roger Murdock, who was King David's tenant in Edgcote (q.v.) under Henry II. In 1223 Roger's son and heir

¹ The west wall of the aisle was rebuilt, stone by stone, in 1935 and new tracery for the two-light window inserted.

² *Assoc. Arch. Soc. Reports*, xxix.

³ The painting represents the Ascension, the Descent of the Holy Ghost, and (?) the Coronation of the Blessed Virgin.

⁴ The panels are similar to those in the pulpit at Isham church.

⁵ The inscriptions on the older bells are given in North, *Ch. Bells of Northants*, 308; that on the second has been retained. Edward Newcombe was casting 1570-1616, but this bell is undated. The tenor

was given by Frances Mary Montgomery and was placed in the tower, with a new chiming clock, in February, 1900. Previously there had been three bells.

⁶ Markham, *Ch. Plate of Northants*, 159.

Thomas stated that his father had presented to Holcot Church, but Roger's widow Maud, at this time the wife of Theobald de Bray, successfully claimed the advowson as part of her dower.¹ Very soon afterwards the advowson was acquired by the Prior of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem in England, who presented to the church in 1227-8,² and subsequently until the Dissolution. About 1291 the church was worth £8 a year.³ In 1492 William Lily, the grammarian, who had become acquainted with the Knights Hospitallers in Rhodes, was presented to Holcot rectory by the prior, John Kendall.⁴ At the Dissolution the preceptory of the Knights Hospitallers in Dingley was receiving 40s. yearly from Holcot Church, and the rectory was let to farm to Anne Pachett for £15 17s. 4d. a year. The payment to the archdeacon of Northampton for procurations and synodals was 50s. 7d., leaving a clear income of £13 6s. 8d.⁵ The advowson of the rectory and church was granted in 1548 to Thomas Henneage, knight, and others.⁶ It was held at his death in 1595 by Gilbert Langtree whose son and heir was Edward.⁷ In 1636 presentation was made, jointly, by Sir Anthony Haslewood, knight, Hannah Campion, widow, and Edmund Barves of Cunnington in Huntingdonshire;⁸ in 1640, according to Bridges, the right to present was held by a Mr. Campion, probably identical with William Campion, then rector.⁹ In 1663 the living was presented by the Crown,¹⁰ probably to Edward Halles, who died as rector in 1715 at the age of ninety-four. He had a daughter, Anne Woodford,¹¹ who presented in 1745 when she was a widow.¹² In 1777 the Rev. Thomas Gill was patron,¹³ and presentation in 1778 was by Elizabeth Gill, widow.¹⁴ In 1780 Edward Montgomery, clerk, the incumbent, presented.¹⁵ The advowson and incumbency continued in this family, the Rev. R. Montgomery being patron and incumbent from 1836 to 1881. Mrs. Daniels (formerly Miss Montgomery) is now patron.

The following charities are administered by the rector and 3 trustees appointed by the parish council of Holcot in accordance with the *CHARITIES* Scheme of the Charity Commissioners of 1 October 1909 under the title of the United Charities.

1. Blacksmith's Shop Rent-charge. 5s. yearly paid in respect of a former blacksmith's shop, being the interest on a sum of £5 given for the poor by Thomas Campion and invested on mortgage in 1699.

2. Rev. William Campion. Will dated in 1636. Rent-charge of 6s. on a house and a piece of land in Holcot.

3. John Clark. Gift of £1 yearly charged upon Poplars Farm in Holcot.

4. Rev. Christopher Crouch. Will 1 August 1735. Moiety of the rent of 2 acres of land in Hardingstone, leased to Northampton Rural, now District, Council at £12 12s. of which sum half comes to Holcot.

5. Doe Bank Rent-charge. A yearly sum of 10s. in respect of about 1 rood of land called Doe Bank in Holcot is paid, half by the rector and half by Brixworth Rural District Council, who have acquired half the land as building sites. The origin of this payment is unknown.

6. Elias Groom. Will dated 12 February 1687. Rent-charge of 6s. on a house and land in Holcot.

7. Edward Halles. Will 4 May 1713. 3 poles of land in Holcot let for 10s. yearly.

8. Poor's Land. Inclosure Award 30 March 1778. 1 a. 2 r. 10 p. of land in Holcot let for £2 2s. yearly.

The income of these charities is applied in the distribution of goods to the poor at Christmas.

By the Award of the Inclosure Commissioners dated 30 March 1778 a piece of land adjoining the Poor's Land was allotted, the rents to be applied in repairs of the parish church. The land is let for £9 yearly, which sum is applied by the rector and churchwardens towards church expenses.

MEARS ASHBY

Asbi, Esseby, Northesseby, Esseby Mares, Assheby Mares (xi-xvii cent.); Ashby Meres, Mears Ashby (xvii-xx cent.).

The parish of Mears Ashby covers 1,670 acres, mainly grassland. The slope of the land is from north to south, the highest point being 388 ft. In the north-east several acres are covered by the Ashby Furze. There are stone and sand pits in the parish. The village is situated in the centre where the four main roads converge; that from Northampton enters on the south side and a road crossing the parish from east to west connects the village with Wilby and Sywell. Two gabled houses to the south of the church are medieval but much altered in the 17th century. Swans' Pool Brook, the only stream of any size in Mears Ashby, flows through the village. The soil is partly red land and partly clay; the subsoil is composed of ironstone, clay, and free-stone. Cereals are cultivated and the population for the

most part is engaged in agriculture. Roman remains have been discovered in this parish; kiln 'wasters' of light grey ware were found there in 1899.¹⁶

Mears Ashby Hall, the residence of Major Henry Minshull Stockdale, stands on the south side of the village and is a picturesque gabled house of three stories erected in 1637 by Thomas Clendon,¹⁷ faced with local ironstone and covered with Colleyweston slates. The main front, which faces north, has projecting end wings and a central porch taken up the full height of the building and terminating in a curved gable. The other gables are straight and all the windows have stone mullions. The round-headed doorway is flanked by coupled columns carrying an entablature, above which is a semicircular arch. The house was enlarged about 1720 on the west side, but the buildings then erected were pulled down in 1859 and rebuilt on a more extensive scale¹⁸ in harmony with the old work. The original

¹ *Bracton's Note-Book*, 1592.

² Harl. MS. 6950, fol. 26.

³ *Pope Nich. Tax.* (Rec. Com.), 39.

⁴ *Dict. Nat. Biog.*

⁵ *Valor Eccles.* (Rec. Com.), iv, 306.

⁶ Pat. 2 Edw. VI, pt. 7.

⁷ Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), cccxvi, 2.

⁸ Inst. Bks. (P.R.O.).

⁹ Bridges, *Northants.* ii, 147.

¹⁰ Inst. Bks. (P.R.O.). This must have been a confirmation of possession as, according to his monument, Halles was rector 'nigh 60 years'.

¹¹ Bridges, op. cit. ii, 146.

¹² Inst. Bks. (P.R.O.).

¹³ Priv. Act 17 Geo. III, cap. 13.

¹⁴ Inst. Bks. (P.R.O.).

¹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶ *F.C.H. Northants.* i, 218.

¹⁷ *Northants. N. & Q.* ii (v.s.), 244. His initials are over the porch, and initials and date on two lead rain-water heads on the north front.

¹⁸ The architect was Anthony Salvin: the new wing is of two stories, ranging with the three of the old.

A HISTORY OF NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

lay-out of the grounds, with terrace and fish-ponds, remains on the west side, and the stables are dated 1647. To the east, on high ground, is a rectangular dove-cote¹ probably contemporary with the house, but a two-story garden pavilion, with pyramidal tiled roof, formerly overlooking a bowling-green, is of 18th-century date. To this period also belongs the pedestal sun-dial² in front of the house.

In 1086 the Countess Judith held in *MANORS* Ashby 4 hides. In the Confessor's time it was held by Bardi and was then and in 1086 worth £4.³ In the 12th century these 4 hides

here in 1205, but apparently these estates were forfeited about 1228 and given to Earl William de Warenne.¹⁰ Other lands formerly held by Adam de Keret were given in 1224 to William de Serland, or Shorland, who died in 1231, leaving a widow Juliana,¹¹ who survived until 1258.¹² William de Blancmuster (de Albo Monasterio) was holding, apparently, about 1240, but forfeited his land as a Norman, and two years later¹³ the king gave his lands to Robert de Mares.¹⁴ In 1246 Robert was holding two-thirds of the manor, and Juliana de Cotebrok (widow of William de Serland), of whom the king had the marriage, the

other third.¹⁵ Robert died before 1260, when his widow Sybil had custody of Mears Ashby Manor during the minority of her son John.¹⁶ She afterwards married William Marmion, who was with Simon de Montfort at Evesham.¹⁷ During the minority of John, Henry de Hastings, overlord of the other moiety, tried to usurp rights in this manor.¹⁸ In 1279 John de Mares paid 20s. for half a fee and died next year, leaving Mears Ashby Manor to his son John aged 6,¹⁹ who died in 1315 and was succeeded by his son Giles, a minor,²⁰ born in his father's hall at Ashby on 5 December 1307.²¹ His mother Isabel held the manor during his minority and in 1319 the king granted to Elias de Assheburn the yearly rent of 60s. which Isabel paid for the estate and the marriage of Giles de Mares.²² In 1330 Giles alienated the manor of 'Northashby Mars' to Thomas son of Elias de Assheburn,²³ except $\frac{1}{3}$ which

his mother held for life. This apparently brought the two moieties of the manor into the same hands,²⁴ and both portions passed to John Darcy, who at his death in May 1347 held part in chief by the service of offering his hand to the king's stirrup and was said to hold the rest of the King of Scotland by similar service.²⁵ His son John Darcy was licensed in 1349 to enfeof Richard de Salteby and Elizabeth his wife.²⁶ Two years later Salteby alienated it to Henry Green,²⁷ to whom in 1360 a third of the same manor was conveyed by Peter VI de Mauley, whose wife Elizabeth, widow of the elder John Darcy,²⁸ held it in dower.²⁹ Sir Henry³⁰ died in 1369³¹ and the manor then descended as Great

were of the fee of David of Scotland.⁴ A moiety of this property called *NORTH HALF* or *ASHBY MEARS MANOR* was held by Richard de Humez⁵ before 1181, in which year he granted his lands in Ashby to the king.⁶ It is subsequently found held of the king in chief. In 1280 it was held by the service of a pair of gilt spurs,⁷ but between 1315 and 1417 by serjeanty of raising the right hand towards the king on Christmas day, wherever he might be in England.⁸ This serjeanty seems originally to have been holding the king's stirrup at Christmas and to have been instituted before the division of the manor.⁹

William son of Richard de Humez still held lands

¹ It has 550 nesting-holes.
² The plate bears the name of Thomas Eayre of Kettering, who cast the tenor bell of Mears Ashby church in 1718.

³ *V.C.H. Northants.* i, 351.

⁴ *Ibid.* 382.

⁵ *Assize R.* 614, m. 7 d.; and see under Adwoson.

⁶ *Harl. Ch.* 83 A. 6. Hugh and Robert de Mara are among the witnesses.

⁷ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 10 Edw. I, no. 8.

⁸ *Ibid.* 9 Edw. II, no. 25; *ibid.* 15 Ric. II, pt. 1, no. 24; *ibid.* 5 Hen. V, no. 39.

⁹ See below.

¹⁰ Farrer, *Honors and Knights' Fees*, ii, 338.

¹¹ *Ibid.*

¹² *Cal. Pat.* 1247-58, p. 661.

¹³ *Assize R.* 614, m. 7 d.

¹⁴ *Cal. Chart. R.* 1226-57, p. 267.

¹⁵ *Bk. of Fees*, 1400.

¹⁶ *Curia Regis R.* 168, m. 10 d.; *Pipe R.* 9 Edw. I, m. 10.

¹⁷ *Cal. Inq. Misc.* i, 833.

¹⁸ *Assize R.* 616, m. 24.

¹⁹ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 10 Edw. I, no. 8;

Cal. Close, 1279-88, p. 254.

²⁰ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 9 Edw. II, no. 25.

²¹ *Proof of age: Cal. Inq. p.m.* vii, p. 195.

²² *Cal. Pat.* 1317-21, p. 338.

²³ *Assize R.* 632, m. 165.

²⁴ See below, under South Half.

²⁵ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* ix, 49. The service to the King of Scotland presumably refers to tenure at an earlier date.

²⁶ *Cal. Pat.* 1348-50, p. 279.

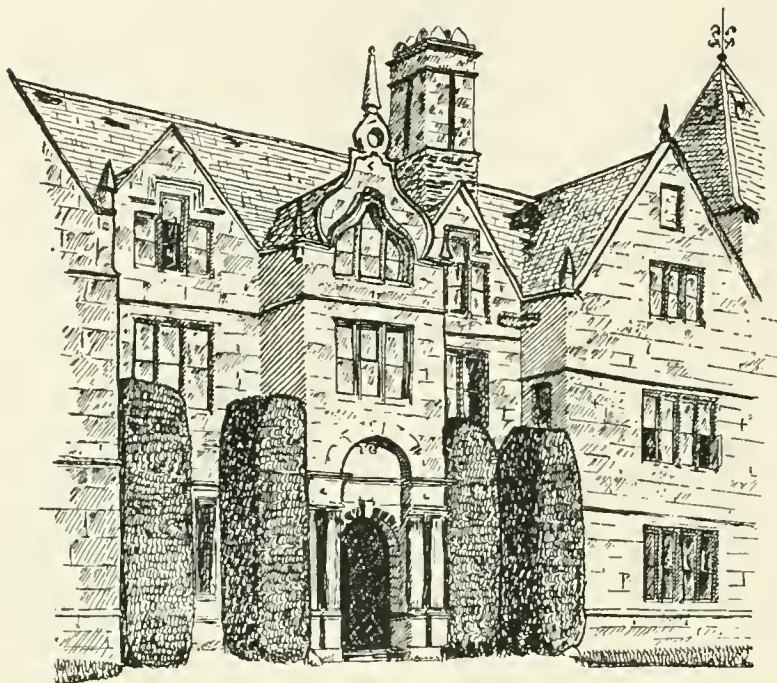
²⁷ Feet of F. Northants. 25 Edw. III, no. 373.

²⁸ G.E.C. *Complete Peerage* (2nd ed.), viii, 568.

²⁹ Feet of F. Northants. 34 Edw. III, no. 487.

³⁰ In 1342 and 1363 Henry Green obtained licence from the King to retain his manor. *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 36 Edw. III (2nd nos.), 1; *ibid.* 37 Edw. III (2nd nos.), 51.

³¹ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 3 Edw. III, pt. i, 48.



MEARS ASHBY HALL

Doddington (q.v.) until the death of Thomas Vaux, who died about 1556.¹ He was succeeded by his son William, who died in 1595 leaving his estates to his grandson Edward Vaux,² who in 1612 refused to take the oath of allegiance to James I and forfeited his lands;³ but they were restored in the same year.⁴ He died in 1661 and was succeeded by his step-son Nicholas, Earl of Banbury, from whom the manor passed to his son Charles.⁵

Charles, Earl of Banbury, still held the manor in 1683,⁶ but about this time the property again became subdivided, and at the time of the Inclosure Award the two estates thus formed were distinguished by the names of the Court Leet Manor and the Court Baron Manor. In Mears Ashby Manor is to be found the Court Leet Manor of 1779, and its descent appears to have been as follows: between 1683 and 1685 Mears Ashby passed from the Earl of Banbury to George, Earl of Northampton, who held it at the latter date.⁷ In 1719 he held a court leet here to which the townsmen paid 6s. 8d. yearly.⁸ His nephew Spencer, Earl of Northampton, held this manor in 1779⁹ and the property is owned at the present day by the Marquess of Northampton.

The other moiety of Mears Ashby Manor known as *SOUTH HALF* remained appurtenant to the honor of Huntingdon.¹⁰ This overlordship is last mentioned in 1417.¹¹ The first known tenant is William Fitz Warin, who in 1285 held one third of Ashby of the honor of Huntingdon.¹² His daughter Juliana married Elias de Assheburn,¹³ who as 'chief lord' paid a fine to have the lands of a felon killed while escaping from Mears Ashby church in 1330,¹⁴ in which year his son Thomas, as mentioned above, acquired the North Half Manor. In 1369 this estate reappears as 'a moiety of Ashby Manor held of the Earl of Pembroke'.¹⁵ After this date it followed the same descent as Mears Ashby though not immediately losing its identity. It is separately mentioned as South Half Manor in 1417,¹⁶ but after that date appears to have become more or less absorbed in the larger manor until the late 17th century, when it appears as the Court Baron Manor, so called in the Inclosure Award. In 1683 it was still the property of the Earl of Banbury, but in 1704 two-thirds of the manor were in the hands of Thomas Davison in right of his wife Elizabeth.¹⁷ Thomas Davison sold his moiety of this manor to Henry Stratford in 1719,¹⁸ from whom by 1777 it had passed to Elizabeth Mercer.¹⁹ Thomas Mercer held as late as 1877 and at the present day Mrs. Kitley holds this moiety of the manor.

In 1714 Richard Rogers was dealing with the remaining third of this manor²⁰ and Elizabeth Rogers²¹ held it in 1770 and 1777.²²

Early in the 19th century this moiety appears to have been transferred to Lewis Loyd, and descended to

Lady Wantage, on whose death in 1901 the property was sold.

A mill in Mears Ashby is mentioned in 1325 when William de Assheby died seised of one which he held of the heirs of John de Mares.²³

The church of *ALL SAINTS* stands *CHURCH* on high ground in the middle of the village and consists of chancel 27 ft. 6 in. by 14 ft. 3 in., with north vestry and organ-chamber, clerestoried nave 47 ft. 10 in. by 19 ft. 6 in., north and



MEARS ASHBY: THE CHURCH AND VILLAGE

south aisles 9 ft. 6 in. wide, south porch, and west tower 11 ft. square, all these measurements being internal.

The chancel was rebuilt on the old foundations in 1858,²⁴ but the round-headed priest's doorway is apparently an ancient feature and would seem to point to the original chancel having been of late-12th-century date, to which period the south doorway and probably the font belong. A wheel-head cross, of late-10th- or early-11th-century date, however, preserved in the church, presumably belongs to the site and if so indicates that there was a cemetery here, and perhaps also a church in pre-Conquest times,²⁵ though the first stone building would no doubt be that erected in the 12th century, consisting only of chancel and nave. The tower is of c. 1220, and later in the same period the building seems to have been remodelled, aisles thrown out and the chancel altered. The nave arcades and three pointed windows in the south aisle are c. 1280-90, but the north aisle appears to have been rebuilt about fifty years later, the square-headed windows and the

¹ Baker, *Northants.* i, 32.

² Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), cxxi, 244.

³ *Cal. S.P. Dom.* 1611-18, p. 124.

⁴ Pat. R. 10 Jas. I, pt. 15, no. 15.

⁵ Baker, *Northants.* i, 32.

⁶ Feet of F. *Northants.* Trin. 35 Chas.

II; Recov. R. Trin. 35 Chas. II, ro. 66.

⁷ Recov. R. Hil. 1-2 Jas. II, ro. 23.

⁸ Bridges, *Northants.* ii, 136.

⁹ Act Priv. and Loc. 17 Geo. III, cap. 128.

¹⁰ *V.C.H. Northants.* ii, 570.

¹¹ Chan. Inq. p.m. 5 Hen. V, no. 39.

¹² *Feud. Aids*, iv, 16.

¹³ Assize R. 632, m. 115.

¹⁴ Ibid. m. 5.

¹⁵ Chan. Inq. p.m. 43 Edw. III (pt. i), 48.

¹⁶ Ibid. 5 Hen. V, no. 39.

¹⁷ Feet of F. Div. Co. Mich. 3 Anne.

¹⁸ Ibid. *Northants.* Hil. 5 Geo. I; Bridges, *Northants.* ii, 136.

¹⁹ Acts Priv. and Loc. 17 Geo. III, cap. 128.

²⁰ Feet of F. *Northants.* Mich. 1 Geo. I.

²¹ Recov. R. Hil. 10 Geo. III, ro. 189.

²² Acts Priv. and Loc. 17 Geo. III, cap. 128.

²³ Chan. Inq. p.m. 18 Edw. II, no. 57.

²⁴ The whole of the church was restored at this time, and the vestry built: the architect was William Butterfield.

²⁵ The cross head is of a type, fairly common in the north of England, which apparently originated in the Isle of Man, from where it passed into Yorkshire and Cumberland, spreading later to other districts: W. G. Collingwood in *Yorks. Arch. Jour.* xxviii, 322. See also J. Romilly Allen in *Assoc. Arch. Soc. Reports*, xix, 413.

A HISTORY OF NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

pointed door being well-developed 14th-century work. The porch and west window of the south aisle are also of this period, but the clerestory is a late-15th-century addition; it has four square-headed windows on each side, and embattled parapets, with a sanctus bell-cote set over the east gable. The chancel has a modern high-pitched roof covered with Colleyweston slates,¹ but the nave and aisles are leaded, the latter having straight parapets. The tower was repaired and buttresses added in 1861.

The chancel, which is without buttresses, is built of local ironstone faced internally with Bath stone. The arch of the priest's doorway is of a single order slightly chamfered and hood-mould over, and part of the westernmost window on the south side is old, but no other ancient features remain. The piscina, sedile, and a trefoil-headed recess in the north wall are all modern. The restored chancel arch is of two chamfered orders on responds with moulded capitals; on the wall above are the remains of a painted Doom, discovered in 1858. The arcades are of four bays, with pointed arches of two chamfered orders on octagonal pillars with moulded capitals and bases, and similar responds much restored. At the east end of the south aisle is a trefoil-headed piscina, and farther west a tall narrow pointed recess, or cupboard, probably used as a locker for banner staves, or for a processional cross. The 12th-century south doorway, moved to its present position when the aisle was added, has a round arch of two square orders on moulded imposts, the hood-mould terminating in heads.

The tower is of three stages with embattled parapet and angle pinnacles. The upper or bell-chamber story has an arcade of three pointed arches on each side, with separate hood-moulds carried round the tower, and shafts with moulded capitals and bases, but the outer compartments alone are pierced. The middle stage has a small pointed opening on the north and south sides now hidden by the clock faces; the west side is blank. In the lower stage is a narrow pointed doorway on the south and a lancet window on the west, both much restored. The tower arch is of two chamfered orders. There is no vice.

The font is of the unmounted type, octagonal in shape and lined with lead. On all sides but the west it is richly ornamented with circular medallions inclosing roses, stars, and other devices, flanked with bands of interlaced work.² Having been long covered with plaster the ornament is well preserved. The lower part is cut back, or chamfered, and is plain.

The pulpit and other fittings are modern, but there is a 17th-century oak communion table in the north aisle; a standing poor's box with three locks, cut from a single piece of oak, may be of 16th-century date.

There is a ring of six bells cast in 1913 by J. Taylor

& Co. of Loughborough from four old and one modern bell.³

The silver plate consists of a cup, cover paten, and alms dish of 1685, the paten inscribed 'Mears Ashby, 1686', and a flagon of 1702 given by Mrs. Sarah Kinloch, widow, in 1710. There is also a brass alms dish.⁴

The registers before 1812 are as follows: (i) baptisms and marriages 1670-1744, burials 1672-77, and 1753-7, with all entries from Lady Day 1753 to Lady Day 1754; (ii) baptisms 1754-83, burials 1754-94;⁵ (iii) marriages 1754-1812; (iv) baptisms and burials 1794-1812.

The advowson of the church of *ADVOWSON* Mears Ashby was granted to the abbey of Aunay by Richard de Humez and Agnes his wife before 1159.⁶ During the Hundred Years War it fell into the king's hands⁷ and he presented between the years 1345 and 1383.⁸ In 1392 Richard II granted to the Prior of St. Anne of Coventry licence to acquire this patronage from the Abbot of Aunay, paying to the king 25 marks annually while the war lasted.⁹ The Prior of St. Anne's retained the advowson until 1535. In 1562 Elizabeth granted it to John Marshe.¹⁰ In 1625 died Justinian Bracegirdle in whose will instructions were left to buy the advowson and impropriation of Mears Ashby. The profits were to be appropriated in portions of £10 per annum to scholars of the University of Oxford and were directed by three trustees who alternately presented to the living;¹¹ their successors are patrons at the present day.

In 1291 the church was worth £5 6s. 8d.¹² and in 1535 £5 4s. 2d.¹³

Church Estate. On the inclosure of *CHARITIES* lands in this parish in 1744, 4 acres of land were allotted to the minister and churchwardens in lieu of other lands vested in seoffees in trust for the general expenses of the church. The land is let for £6 yearly.

Poor's Land. Five acres of land was allotted upon the inclosure to the minister and churchwardens for the poor. This land is let and produces about £7. The income is applied in the distribution of bread and meat on New Year's Day.

Town Estate. Five cottages and gardens and several pieces of land in the open fields were devised by the Rev. Justinian Bracegirdle in 1625 for the repair of bridges and causeways in Mears Ashby.

On the inclosure of the open fields an allotment of 14 acres was awarded in lieu of the lands. The land was sold in 1920 and the proceeds invested now produce about £28.

Mrs. Sarah Kinloch, by will dated 16 June 1710, gave £200 to be invested in lands, the proceeds to be used for educating poor children of the parish. These lands, in Arthingworth, now produce about £35 yearly.

¹ The old chancel had a low-pitched leaded roof: Bridges, *Hist. of Northants.* ii, 136.

² The ornament is very rich. Octagonal unmounted fonts are not common in the 12th century: see Bond, *Fonts and Font Covers*, 40, where the Mears Ashby example is figured.

³ Of the four old bells the first was by E. Arnold, of Leicester, 1793, the second by Jas. Keene of Woodstock, 1621, the third an undated alphabet bell by T. New-

combe, of Leicester, and the tenor by T. and J. Eayre of Kettering, 1718. A treble by Taylor was added in 1879. The inscriptions on the old bells are given in North, *Ch. Bells of Northants.* 335.

⁴ Markham, *Ch. Plate of Northants.* 17.

⁵ The baptisms were discontinued on October 1, 1783, on account of the stamp duty, but there are copies, from memoranda, of baptisms and marriages 1783-94.

The duty was taken off on 1 October, 1794, immediately after which the new register of baptisms begins.

⁶ Round, *Cal. Doc. France*, 185.

⁷ *Cal. Pat.* 1343-5, p. 471.

⁸ *Ibid.* 1351-5, p. 311.

⁹ *Ibid.* 1391-6, p. 242.

¹⁰ *Pat. R.* 3 Eliz. pt. i.

¹¹ Baker, *Northants.* i, 23.

¹² *Pope Nich. Tax. (Rec. Com.)*, 39.

¹³ *Valor Eccles. (Rec. Com.)*, iv, 306.



MEARS ASHBY VILLAGE



MEARS ASHBY CHURCH: INTERIOR, LOOKING EAST



MEARS ASHBY CHURCH: THE FONT

SYWELL

Sywelle (xi cent.); Sywell (xii–xx cent.).

Sywell parish covers about 2,170 acres, largely grass and woodland. Two small streams flow through the parish, one of which, Sywell Bottom, forms the boundary between Sywell and Mears Ashby. The land rises on the north, the highest point, 440 ft., being in Sywell Wood in the north-east corner of the parish. The boundaries on the west, north, and east are all on high ground and inclose a shallow valley in which the village of Sywell is situated. The main road connects the villages of Mears Ashby, Sywell, and Holcot, and joins the road from Northampton to Kettering at the western boundary of the parish. The soil is partly stiff loam and partly red clay; the subsoil is chiefly ironstone. The chief crops are cereals and turnips, and the population, which numbered 185 in 1931, is engaged chiefly in agriculture.

The village is built on both sides of the road from Mears Ashby a little south of the point where it joins a side road from Overstone. At the north end of the village is a market cross, of which the shaft and base are ancient and formerly stood at the south-east end of the village.¹ The school was built in 1861, in which year the entire village was rebuilt by the late Lady Overstone. Sywell Hall, the residence of Brig.-Gen. H. E. Stockdale, stands on the north side of the village and is a picturesque early-17th-century gabled building of three stories with mullioned windows; the gables are surmounted by pyramidal finials. The walling is local sandstone and there is a porch on the north side the full height of the building in which is a panel with the Wilmer arms and crest.² All the chimneys are modern, and a gable at the east end of the north front has been taken down.

At the time of the Domesday Survey the *MANORS* Count of Mortain held 4 hides in *SYWELL* formerly belonging to Osmund son of Leuric. Two hides of this land were then in demesne.³ The estates of the count were forfeited by his son William in 1106.⁴ They appear to have been granted to Niel de Mundeville, whose daughter Maud wife of Roland of Avranches⁵ in 1141 granted the manor of Sywell and all her land there, except 4½ virgates,⁶ to the Priory of St. Andrew, Northampton.⁷ This deed was confirmed 8 years later by William of Avranches and his son Simon.⁸ Simon, Earl of Northampton, son of the founder of the priory, confirmed the gift,⁹ and when the 12th-century Survey was made the monks of Northampton held these 4 hides in Sywell.¹⁰ In 1291 the priory property here was worth £11 10s. 6d.¹¹ and in 1535 £24.¹² In 1538 Francis, Prior of St. Andrew's, sur-

rendered the manor to Henry VIII¹³ and in the same year the monastery was dissolved.¹⁴

In 1543 the manor of Sywell was granted by Henry VIII to John Mersh, a sewer of the chamber,¹⁵ from whom it passed in 1578 to Anthony Jenkinson,¹⁶ the great traveller, who had married his daughter Judith Mersh.¹⁷ In 1606 the manor was alienated by Anthony Jenkinson to Robert Wilmer,¹⁸ who was succeeded in 1613 by his son William Wilmer,¹⁹ afterwards knighted. Sir William, who was a Royalist, had to compound for his estate; he died in 1646²⁰ leaving a grandson William, a minor.²¹ William Wilmer came of age in 1654²² and died six years later. His son William was in 1706 succeeded in turn by his son and namesake.²³ William Wilmer died in 1744 and his son Bennet died in the same year. Although he was a minor he made a will by which he left to his aunt Dinah Wilmer all his estate. After her death Sywell Manor passed to another branch of the same family who were still holding in 1791. Between this date and 1806 Sywell Manor was alienated to Samuel Pell,²⁴ from whose successor Edwin Pell the property was acquired by Lewis Loyd, father of Lord Overstone.²⁵ After the death of Lady Wantage, only daughter of Lord Overstone, the estate was sold, and no manorial rights are exercised at the present day.

At the Domesday Survey the Countess Judith claimed the soc of 1½ virgates of land in Sywell; from this probably originated a second *SYWELL MANOR*. Very little has been found concerning the overlordship. In 1377 the Earl of Pembroke, who held part of the honor of Huntingdon²⁶ was overlord in Sywell.²⁷ There is no further trace of this honor, and in 1447–8 and again in 1493 this manor was held of the Prior of St. Andrews,²⁸ who held the principal manor.

Henry Wardedieu in 1286 held land in the parish,²⁹ and in 1347 John Wardedieu the grandson of Henry³⁰ enfeoffed his son John, who had married Margaret Latymer, of Sywell Manor.³¹ In 1377 Sir Edward Dalyngrigge and his wife Elizabeth, daughter of John Wardedieu³² held this manor.³³ John Dalyngrigge³⁴ their son held in 1394–5³⁵ but died without issue.³⁶

Between 1394–5 and 1440 this manor passed to the Tresham family though the method of acquisition has not been ascertained; in the latter year William Tresham was granted free warren in his lands and woods in Sywell;³⁷ eight years later Henry VI confirmed to him



WILMER. Gules a chevron vair between three eagles or.

¹ Markham, *Crosses of Northants*, 109.

² The esquire's helmet indicates that the house was built before 1617, in which year William Wilmer was knighted: *Northants. N. & Q.* (N.S.) v, 1–5.

³ *P.C.H. Northants*, i, 321.

⁴ *Ibid.* 288.

⁵ *Archaeologia*, xxxi, 232.

⁶ This she had given to the church of Elstow. See below.

⁷ Cott. MS. Vesp. E. xvii, fol. 199.

⁸ *Ibid.* 200.

⁹ *P.C.H. Northants*, ii, 102.

¹⁰ *Ibid.* i, 386.

¹¹ *Pope Nich. Tax.* (Rec. Com.), 54.

¹² *Falor Eccles.* iv, 313 (Rec. Com.).

¹³ Feet of F. Div. Co. iiii. 29 Hen. VIII.

¹⁴ *L. and P. Hen. VIII*, xiii, pt. 1, 404.

¹⁵ *Ibid.* xviii (1), 226 (38).

¹⁶ Feet of F. Northants. East. 20 Eliz.

¹⁷ *Dict. Nat. Biog.* xxix, 308.

¹⁸ Feet of F. Northants. Hil. 3 Jas. I.

¹⁹ Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), cccix, 166.

²⁰ Par. reg. of Sywell cited by Foster and Green, *Hist. of Wilmer Family*, 57.

²¹ *Cal. of Com. for Compounding*, ii, 1462.

²² Par. reg. of Sywell cited by Foster and Green, *Hist. of Wilmer Family*, 68.

²³ *Ibid.*, p. 69.

²⁴ *Ibid.*, ch. 7.

²⁵ Sywell Hall and part of the parish was bought by Mr. Loyd in 1849, and the remainder of the parish was acquired by him and Lord Overstone at various dates:

ex inf. Mr. J. A. Dixon.

²⁶ See Yardley Hastings.

²⁷ *Rot. Orig. Abbrev.* (Rec. Com.), ii, 350.

²⁸ *Cal. Pat.* 1446–52, p. 162; *Exch. Inf.* p.m. (Ser. 2), clxxiii, 2.

²⁹ Feet of F. Northants. Mich. 14 Edw. I.

³⁰ *Sussex Arch. Coll.* ix, 283.

³¹ Cott. Ch. xxvi, 38.

³² *Sussex Arch. Coll.* ix, 283.

³³ *Rot. Orig. Abbrev.* (Rec. Com.), ii, 350.

³⁴ *Sussex Arch. Coll.* iii, 93.

³⁵ Close 18 Ric. II, m. 22 d.

³⁶ *Sussex Arch. Coll.* ix, 283.

³⁷ *Cal. Chart. R.* vi, 30.

A HISTORY OF NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

a manor in Sywell with view of frankpledge and other liberties.¹ In the Wars of the Roses he took the side of the Yorkists and in September 1450 was murdered near Sywell by an armed band which lay in wait for him behind a hedge on the road along which they knew he would pass to fulfil an engagement with the Duke of York. Isabel his widow demanded satisfaction for his murder and the arrest and punishment of the murderers.² William Tresham was succeeded in the manor by his son Sir Thomas³ who supported the Lancastrians and at the battle of Towton was taken prisoner. In July 1461 he was attainted and his estates seized,⁴ rents from

Some time before her grant to the Priory of St. Andrew, Maud de Mundeville, on the occasion of her daughter becoming a nun at Elstow, gave to the church there $4\frac{1}{2}$ virgates of land in Sywell.¹² This land was held by the nuns of Elstow at the time of the 12th-century Survey.¹³ After the Dissolution this small estate became merged in the main manor (q.v.) with which it was granted by the king in 1545 to John Mersh.¹⁴

In 1291 a mill in Sywell was held by the Prior of St. Andrew's.¹⁵ It presumably followed the descent of the manor. There is still an old mill near the eastern boundary of the parish on a stream now called Sywell Bottom.

Sywell Wood at a very early date belonged to the monastery of St. Andrew's. In 1204 the priory obtained licence to do what they pleased with their wood of Sywell.¹⁶ It is now a well-known covert of the Pytchley Hunt.

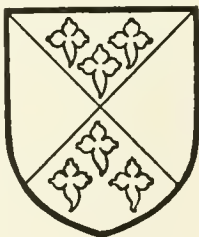
The church of *ST. PETER AND ST. PAUL* consists of chancel 20 ft. 2 in. by 15 ft. 6 in.

with small north CHURCH vestry, nave 35 ft. by 15 ft. 9 in. with north transeptal chapel at its east end, south aisle 12 ft. wide, south porch, and engaged west tower 16 ft. by 14 ft., all the measurements being internal. The chancel was wholly rebuilt in 1862, and in 1870 the north chapel, nave arcade, aisle, clerestory, and porch were almost



SYWELL: THE CHURCH

the manor of Sywell being granted in 1462 by the king to Walter Devereux, Lord Ferrers. In 1464 Tresham was pardoned and three years later his attainder was reversed. In 1471 Sir Thomas fought at Tewkesbury; for this he was convicted of treason. King Edward promised to pardon Tresham, but the promise was not kept; he was beheaded in 1471.⁵ Sywell Manor remained in the king's hands, for in 1480 it was granted to Margaret wife of William Sayer the king's servant for her life.⁶ Four years later the manor was again granted to Edward Brampton and his heirs for his good service against the rebels.⁷ On the accession of Henry VII in 1485 John Tresham son of Sir Thomas successfully requested that he might be installed in his father's property.⁸ Isabel Tresham, a sister of John,⁹ married Henry Vere, who in 1493 died seised of this manor. Henry left four daughters all under age.¹⁰ The eldest daughter Elizabeth married Lord Mordaunt; to her descended most of her father's property but there is no mention of Sywell coming to her,¹¹ and its identity probably became lost after its subdivision amongst the four co-heirs of Henry Vere.



TRESHAM. *Party saltire-wise sable and or with six trefoils or in the sable.*

entirely rebuilt and a new nave roof erected, and how far the new work reproduces the old is now difficult to determine. The tower is open to the nave and aisle on the east and south.

The development of the plan must remain to some extent an open question, but a single pier of late-12th-century date, incorporated in the modern arcade about 16 ft. from its west end, if in its original position, implies the existence at that period of a church with nave, south aisle, and presumably a square-ended chancel. The south doorway is also 12th-century, but was probably re-erected in its present position on the widening of the aisle. In the 13th century a tower was erected over the west end of the nave, its east wall being carried on an arch springing from a pier built to the north of the then existing arcades and from a respond opposite. About 1300 the chancel was rebuilt. The north chapel may have been added later in the 14th century, but it retains no ancient features except a tomb recess in the end wall. The vestry dates from 1862.

The chancel has a high-pitched tiled roof, but all the windows are modern with the exception of one on the north side now opening into the vestry, which is of two lights with forked mullion. The modern three-light east window is of the same type and probably reproduces the window formerly existing. A piscina and aumbry, the latter in the north wall, have been retained. The chancel

¹ *Cal. Pat.* 1446-52, p. 162.

² *Parl. R.* v, 211-12.

³ *Hist. MSS. Com. Var. Coll.* iii, 102.

⁴ *Dict. Nat. Biog.* lviii, 203.

⁵ *Ibid.* 204.

⁶ *Cal. Pat.* 1476-85, p. 201.

⁷ *Ibid.* 416. ⁸ *Parl. R.* vi, 317.

⁹ Metcalfe, *Visit. Northants.* 201.

¹⁰ *Exch. Inq. p.m.* delxiii, 2.

¹¹ Halstead, *Succinct Geneal.* 301.

¹² *Cott. MS. Vesp. E.* xvii, 199.

¹³ *V.C.H. Northants.* i, 382.

¹⁴ *L. and P. Hen. VIII*, xviii (1), 226 (38).

¹⁵ *Pope Nich. Tax.* (Rec. Com.), 321.

¹⁶ *Pipe R.* 6 John, m. 11 d.

arch is modern. From the chapel a squint is directed through the jamb of the north window to the high altar.

The nave is lofty, with leaded roof, and clerestory on the south side only. The arcade consists of four pointed arches on circular pillars, copied from the existing one of the late 12th century. All the arches are modern and there is a third modern pier immediately to the east of the original one, the two western arches being thus widely separated. The 13th-century pier from which the tower arch springs is composed of four half-rounds with slender shafts between and has a moulded capital and base. The respond is of similar type. The arch is semicircular but depressed, of two orders, the inner one moulded.

The tower externally is of two stages, the upper corresponding to two floors within, and has an embattled parapet with angle pinnacles, and buttresses facing west to the lower stage. The north side is almost entirely covered with ivy and only the bell-chamber windows can be seen. These, as on the south, consist of two lancets under a single label, divided by a shaft with moulded capital. On the east a mullion takes the place of the shaft and there is no label, and on the west a later square-headed window has been inserted. Below the bell-chamber windows on the west is another window of the same type, and on the west a modern projecting vice to the ringing chamber.

The font and pulpit are modern, but the bowl and stem of a plain octagonal font are in the churchyard.

In the east window is some good Elizabethan glass dated 1580.¹

The north chapel contains mural monuments to Robert Wilmer (d. 1612), the Hon. Lady Mary Wilmer, wife of William Wilmer (d. 1729), and tablets (18th century and later) to members of the family of Pell of Sywell Hall.

There are three bells, the treble by Henry Bagley of Ecton 1701, the second dated 1766, and the tenor an alphabet bell by Hugh Watts of Bedford 1611.²

The plate consists of a silver cup and paten of 1706 given by the Rev. H. Cockayne Cust, rector, in 1816, a small paten, Birmingham make 1907-8, and a pewter flagon.³

The registers before 1812 are as follows: (i) baptisms 1571-1677, 1683-7, marriages 1572-1677, burials 1572-1674; (ii) baptisms and marriages 1675-1747, burials 1678-1747; (iii) baptisms and burials 1748-70, marriages 1749-60; (iv) baptisms 1771-1812, burials 1771-83, 1787-1812; (v) marriages 1754-1812.

The advowson of Sywell was included in the grant of Maud de Munde-ville to the Priory of St. Andrew;⁴ with that house it remained until the Dissolution. Henry VIII granted the advowson and rectory to John Mersh in 1543.⁵ It follows the same descent as the manor (q.v.) until 1814 when Lord Brownlow obtained it in exchange for the advowson of Overstone.⁶ The Earls Brownlow were patrons until 1872 in which year the right of presentation was transferred to the Duchy of Cornwall. In 1923 the living was united with that of Overstone, and the joint benefice is now in the alternate gift of the Duchy of Cornwall and of Mr. G. E. Stott.⁷

The Charity of Ambrose Marriott, *CHARITIES* founded by will proved in 1736, consists of a rentcharge of £2 issuing out of a house and 20 acres of land in the parish of Wellingborough known as Highfield Lodge. The income is distributed in money.

Owen Pell by his will, proved at Birmingham, 3 June 1867, gave £150 to the rector upon trust to apply the income in the distribution of flour to poor widows two days before Christmas and two days before Shrove Tuesday. The legacy less duty was invested in £142 9s. 7d. Consols with the Official Trustees. The dividend amounting to £3 11s. yearly is applied in the distribution of flour as directed by the will to 5 poor widows.

WELLINGBOROUGH

Wendlesberie, Wedlingaberie (xi cent.); Wenlingebure (xii cent.); Wendlingburgh (xiii-xvi cent.); Wellyngburgh (xiv cent.).

The parish of Wellingborough contains 4,253 acres. The subsoil is Lias and Great Oolite.⁸ The Rivers Nene and Ise form the eastern boundary of the parish, while another stream which joins the Ise forms the northern boundary. The London road from Kettering passes through the town, which is served by two stations on the London, Midland, and Scottish Railway. From the London Road Station, a mile to the south, a fine avenue of trees leads up to the town.

On the west side of the town, behind Sheep Street and overlooking the Swans Pool Brook, is the house called 'Croyland Abbey', which embodies some remains of the manor-house of the abbots of Crowland, including the fragment of a 13th-century doorway. Cole, writing in 1837, said that a considerable part of the house had been taken down 'of late years', and Bridges early in the

18th century records the then recent demolition of an ancient granary near the entrance. The building appears to have been reconstructed in the 17th century, and a good oak staircase of c. 1670, with square newels and shaped flat balusters together with some mullioned windows of the same period remain. The building was modernized about 1860, but part of a fine 15th-century open roof belonging to the great hall of the manor house is still in position above the ceiling of the west wing. It consists of two-and-a-half bays, with a moulded and embattled tie-beam and upper collar, purlins and wind-braces—the rafters being modern—and formed the eastern end of the great hall: the rest has gone.

The tithe-barn still stands to the north-west of the house and is six bays long, marked externally by buttresses, built chiefly of local ironstone with limestone courses at intervals, and covered with thatch. Its internal dimensions are 77 ft. by 21 ft. 6 in., and it has two wide doorways on each side, those on the west side being

¹ Bridges mentions 'some broken portraits and imperfect Gothic inscriptions' in the east window of the aisle: *Hist. of Northants.* ii, 148. These have disappeared.

² The inscriptions are given in North, *Ch. Bells of Northants.* 414. In 1700 there

were four bells; the second is now wanting, a pit is left for it in the (comparatively new) frame. The bells were restored by Taylor & Co. in 1923.

³ Markham, *Ch. Plate of Northants.* 277.

⁴ Cott. MS. Vesp. E. xvii, fol. 3 d.

⁵ *L. and P. Hen. VIII*, xviii, pt. 1, 226.

⁶ Baker, *Northants.* i, 58.

⁷ *Clergy Lists*, 1817-72; *Clergy Guides*.

⁸ *P.C.H. Northants.* i, Geol. Map 1.

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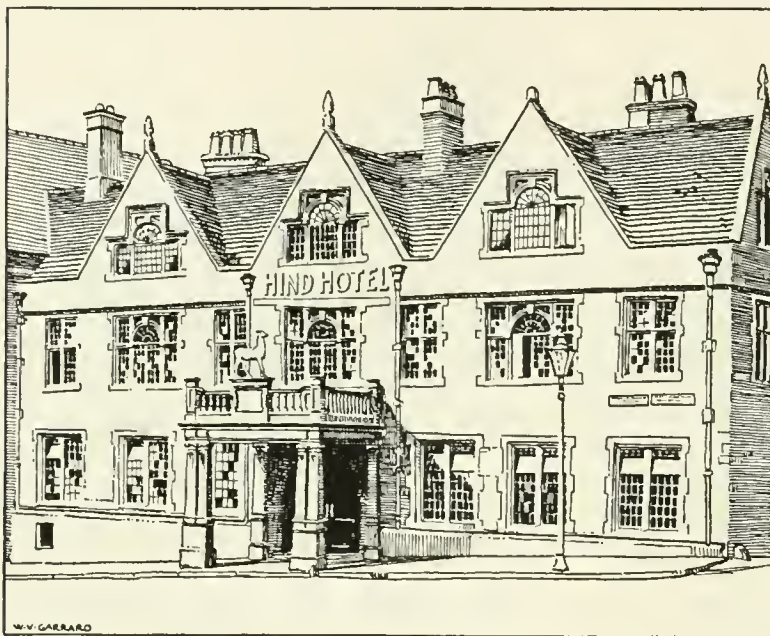
lower than the others, which are 13 ft. 6 in. high. The structure is a very fine example of the stone-built barns of the early 15th century.¹

A second tithe-barn in the town, probably that of the manor of Hatton, of the same general character but reduced in length, has recently been demolished.²

The old Free School-house stands to the north-west of the parish church and is a large two-story building of ironstone with mullioned windows, red-tiled roofs, and two gables on the principal or south front towards the churchyard: on the north side it faces directly on to Church Street. The building was restored in 1904, since when it has been used as a Church House. A sun-

The Hind Hotel,⁶ at the west end of the Market Place, is said by local tradition to have been in course of erection at the time of the battle of Naseby. The building, which is of two stories with gabled attics, is faced with local ironstone and its design is attributed to William Batley, of Wellingborough.⁷ As originally built it was quadrangular in plan, with a central courtyard and an entrance gateway 10 ft. wide in the middle of the principal front and one at the opposite end from the stable yard. On three sides of the courtyard was a colonnade supporting an open balustraded passage on the first floor, from which the bedrooms opened.⁸ The building, however, has undergone many alterations and

in the early part of the last century had sash windows on the ground floor. These were replaced by the present mullioned windows in 1872, and in 1878 the staircase was altered: the gateway had been closed in 1869 and the space converted into an entrance hall. In 1891 the long north front to Burystead was rebuilt and a wooden portico erected over the entrance. The front to the Market Place is about 69 ft. long and has three regularly spaced roof gables with plain coping and finials, the windows in which have a wide round-headed middle light: on the first floor the windows are transomed and alternately of two and three lights. Two lead spout-heads are dated 1741, and two others 1762. The broad 17th-century oak staircase has turned balusters and square newels with shaped tops and in one of the upper rooms is a good four-centered stone fire-place.



WELLINGBOROUGH: THE HIND HOTEL

dial on one of the gables is dated 1621.³ Over the doorway on the south front is a panel inscribed: 'Edward Pickering of Swasey in the county of Cambridge Esq^r one of the sons of S^r John Pickering, late of Tichmarsh in this county Kt. and Barn^t. an^o Dni, 1682 gave to this Free school 130^L for the advancement. of learning—Aspice, Respice, fac simile.' Adjoining this on the right is a second panel,⁴ with the inscription: 'Richard Fisher of Wellingborough gent. gave to the schoolmasters of this place £15 per an. for the further encouragement of Learning An^o Dni 1711', and beneath both a third panel inscribed:

ΦΙΛΟΜΑΘΕΣΙ multum debeo
Barberis autem nihil.

Immediately adjoining the school-house on the west is a gabled house⁵ with stone slated roof and panel on the north front dated 1608.

¹ J. W. Fisher in *Assoc. Arch. Soc. Reports*, xl, 313, where a plan, section, and elevation are given. The building is ventilated by small triangular openings formed by a sill and two stones meeting at the apex and by long narrow slits in the gabled ends. There are diagonal buttresses at three of the angles.

² It stood behind the buildings near the junction of Market Street and Cambridge Street and was used as a garage. Its internal dimensions were about 62 ft.

6 in. by 18 ft.

³ According to Bridges the date '1619' was on the tablet with the Latin inscription: *Hist. of Northants.* ii, 153. Cole says that the school was built in 1620: *Hist. of Wellingborough*, 227.

⁴ In Bridges' time this panel was blank: *op. cit.* ii, 153.

⁵ No. 27 Church Street, now the dwelling of the caretaker of the Church House.

⁶ The name is derived from the crest of the Hattons.

The courtyard is now covered in.

A market cross, built in 1719 in front of the Hind Hotel, was taken down in 1798: it is described as consisting of a stepped base 'surmounted by a beehive-shaped rotunda, which served the purpose of a prison', over which was an octagonal fluted shaft with vane.⁹

The Golden Lion Inn at the bottom of Sheep Street is a small but picturesque stone building, probably of early-17th-century date, with an overhanging timber and plaster gable, recently restored.¹⁰ The house is said to have been the dwelling of Thomas Roane, who died in 1676.¹¹

In Sheep Street¹² is an old stone and timber building with overhanging upper story of plaster and thatched roof broken by gables, which since its restoration c. 1917 forms one of the most picturesque groups in the town, the broad surface of the plaster contrasting with the

⁷ Cole, *op. cit.* 266. His epitaph on the wall of the church vestry is noticed below. He died in 1674.

⁸ *Northants. N. & Q.* v, 177–82.

⁹ Cole, *op. cit.* 243. There was probably a market cross before 1719.

¹⁰ The plaster which formerly covered the entire surface of the gable was removed and the timber work revealed.

¹¹ Cole, *op. cit.* 123–4.

¹² Numbered 29–30 Sheep Street.

broken lines of the ground story, in which is a bay window and wide entrance gateway. The building is probably of early-17th-century date.

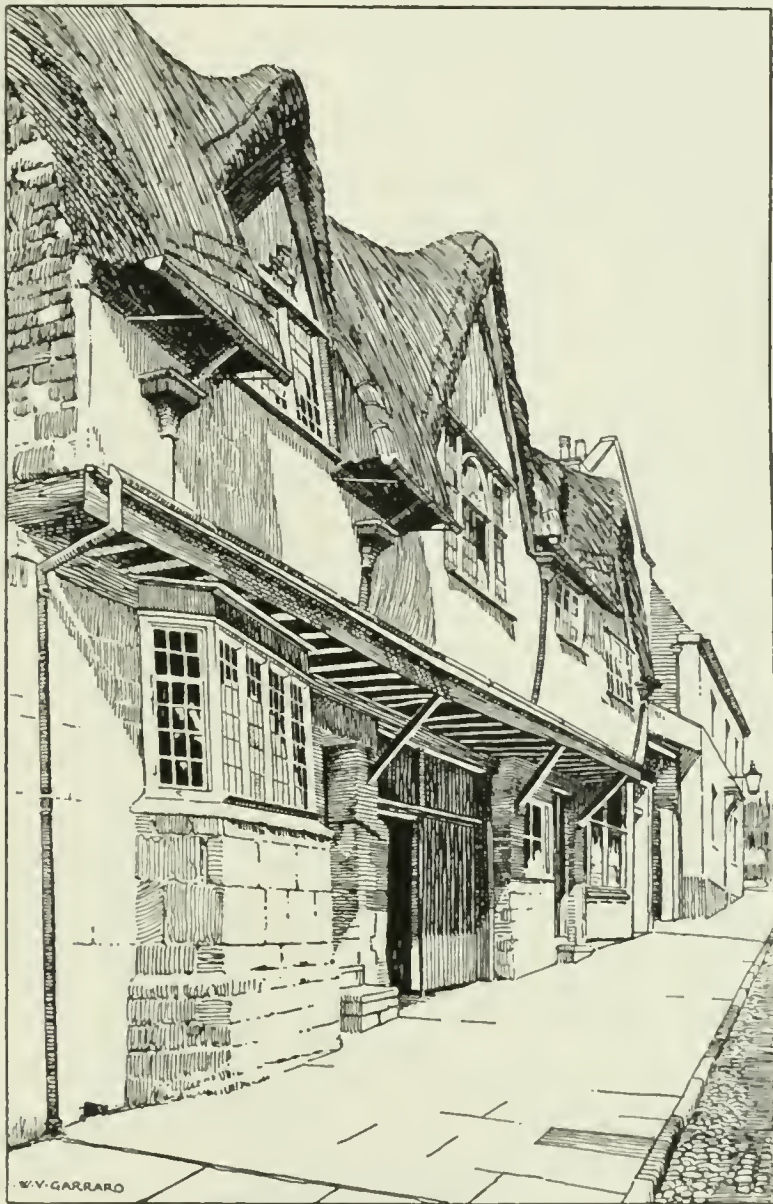
The White Swan Inn (where Queen Henrietta Maria stayed in 1628) was pulled down in 1829.

The new bridge of the River Nene, opened in December 1890, took the place of a 'very long and very picturesque erection', with round arches and two cut-waters, erected c. 1630¹ and known as the 'Long Bridge'.²

Wellingborough School was refounded in 1880³ on a new site on the London Road and the buildings, which are of red brick in the style of the Queen Anne period, have been enlarged in 1888, 1895, and 1913. In 1931 a new Grammar School, built on modern lines round a quadrangle, was opened on the Doddington Road.

The town and manor formed one of the most important possessions of Crowland Abbey from the 10th to the 16th century, with a prosperous market, but the townspeople do not seem to have obtained any measure of self-government, but rather found their right of electing certain officials a burden on the score of expense.⁴ A series of manor accounts of the 13th and 14th centuries were first kept by the reeve only, and the usual officials of a manor appear, but between 1285 and 1289 a collector began to return a separate account for all rents and similar payments.⁵ The collector was elected by the tenants, but in 1385 an agreement was made by which the collector in future was to be appointed by the abbey. This agreement, which contained other clauses, marked the conclusion of a quarrel between the abbot and the townspeople⁶ at the time of the Peasants' Revolt when much damage was done to the abbey demesne.⁷ The collector still accounted for the rents at the time of the Dissolution⁸ and it was probably for rent-collecting purposes that the town was divided into quarters, of which the names Netherend, Upperend, Westend, and Eastend have survived in

documents.⁹ The Guild of St. Mary (q.v.) took a leading action in the affairs of the town and applied part of its revenues to the repair of the bridges in the town. As early as 1227 a relaxation of 13 days' penance was granted to those giving alms for the repair of



WELLINGBOROUGH: SHEEP STREET (BEFORE 1917)

Staplebridge at Wellingborough,¹⁰ and it was probably for the repair of this bridge, under the mysterious name of 'Sancta Pilbrigg', that Gilbert Champneys in 1375 bequeathed money.¹¹ Breke Bridge is mentioned in

¹ *Northants. N. & Q.* iv, 73, 121; *Assoc. Arch. Soc. Reports*, xx, p. lxxxiii. The first bridge was probably erected at the end of the 14th century.

² Including its supplementary arches over the low lands it was of great length. All the stone from the old bridge, which was 12 ft. wide, has been worked into the new one, the width of which is 36 ft. It is constructed of steel girders filled in with concrete laid on brick and stone piers: *Assoc. Arch. Soc. Reports*, xx,

p. lxxxiii.

³ *V.C.H. Northants.* ii, 27, where the history of the school will be found.

⁴ *Northants. N. & Q.* vi, no. 857; *Cal. Pat.* 1408-13, p. 447.

⁵ Wellingborough Account Rolls, in possession of Queens' College, Cambridge, and seen by the courtesy of the President and Fellows of the college and of Dr. F. M. Page.

⁶ *Northants. N. & Q.* vi, no. 857; *Cal. Pat.* 1408-13, p. 447.

⁷ *Cal. Pat.* 1381-5, pp. 357-8; *Early Chan. Proc.*, bdle. 68, no. 29; *Cal. Close*, 1381-5, pp. 462-3.

⁸ *P.R.O. Min. Accts. Iten.* VIII, 2020.

⁹ *Ct. R. (P.R.O.)*, portf. 195, no. 94, m. 2; no. 97, m. 2.

¹⁰ *Rot. II. de Welles* (Cant. & York Soc.), ii, 225.

¹¹ *Hist. MSS. Com. Rep.* ix, pt. i, p. 47 b. 'Stapilbrigg' can obviously be expanded by a scrivener, unacquainted with the name, into 'Sancta Pilbrigg'.

A HISTORY OF NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

1500 and Irewell Bridge in 1539.¹ The revenues of the Guild after its dissolution were vested in certain feoffees and, under a Decree of Chancery, in 1595 were assigned towards the upkeep of the Grammar School,² but it seems clear that the income of the Feoffees' Charity was used for town purposes.³ For many years the school-house served also as the Town Hall,⁴ but in 1821 the feoffees built a new hall out of the revenues of the charity.⁵ Wellingborough Bridge was practically destroyed in a great flood in the 18th century.⁶ In 1669 the town was described as 'a borough containing a great number of houses, all built of stone, and a considerable population',⁷ but in 1738 a great fire destroyed much of the old town.⁸ In 1855 a Board of Health was established, but the government of the town and parish is now controlled by the Urban District Council, established under the Local Government Act of 1894.

In the later 13th century Wellingborough was included in the well-organized system of sheep-farming developed by the abbey of Crowland.⁹ In 1291 the profits of the flocks are specially mentioned amongst the abbey revenues at Wellingborough¹⁰ and both sheep and wool were sent to Crowland. The special accounts of the sheep-run, however, end abruptly in 1314,¹¹ but wool remained an important factor in Wellingborough economy and in 1319 there were 200 sheep on the abbot's demesne.¹² Probably the demesne lands were usually leased.¹³ In the 16th century there was still a large market for wool and fells in the town.¹⁴ The making of cheese, which formerly made the cheese fair on St. Luke's Day celebrated,¹⁵ can be traced back to the 13th century when a large number of cheeses were accounted for to the abbey.¹⁶ In 1693, and again in 1743, Wellingborough market was the scene of somewhat serious corn riots.¹⁷ Lace-making was a thriving industry until killed by the introduction of machine-made lace,¹⁸ but at the present day the main industries of Wellingborough are boot- and shoe-making and ironworks.¹⁹

Wellingborough was famous for its waters in the 17th century. Various wells are mentioned in earlier documents, one of them being called Our Lady's Well,²⁰ and their medicinal qualities made the town fashionable about 1624, when the Duchess of Buckingham came to drink the waters.²¹ Three years later Charles I and Henrietta Maria received the Mantuan ambassador there, while the Queen seems to have come again in 1628.²²

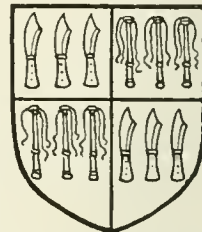
Sir Paul Pindar, the diplomatist, was born at Wellingborough about 1565, and after gaining commercial experience in Venice and Aleppo he was appointed English ambassador to Turkey in 1611. He presented church plate and one of the existing church bells.²³ Other Wellingborough residents were John Cole (1792-1848), the historian of the town, who was a

schoolmaster there in 1835,²⁴ and John Askham (1825-94), the poet and shoemaker who was born there. He was educated for a short time at the Free School and at 10 years old was apprenticed to a shoemaker. He published five volumes of poems and was a member of the earliest School Board in the town in 1871, and was also librarian of the Literary Institute.²⁵

The manor of **WELLINGBOROUGH MANORS** belonged to the abbey of Crowland in Lincolnshire in the reign of Edward the

Confessor.²⁶ According to the 12th-century tradition at the abbey, it had been given to Crowland in the reign of Edred (946-55) by Turketyl, the refounder of the abbey, of which he was elected abbot.²⁷ In 1086 the abbey held 5½ hides at Wellingborough, of which the value had risen from 50s. in 1066 to 61.²⁸ In 1285 the manor was held in frank-almoyn of the king²⁹ and in 1329 the abbot claimed to hold sac, soc, toll, team, and infangthief, view of frankpledge, with gallows, tumbrel, and pillory. He further claimed that he and his men were free of 'murdum' and suit to the county and that they were quit of all tolls on their goods.³⁰

In 1319 there were 7 free tenants, 12 full socmen, 35 toft socmen, 36 villeins, 35 molmen, 5 acremen, and 1 cottar. The services due from the tenants are enumerated in much detail and obviously show the manorial custom of a much earlier date, but each in 1319 had a money equivalent. The most interesting group were the socmen, who had retained their special characteristics from the 11th century. Each socman still held a virgate of land, for which a rent of 8d. was due and the service of 'long avering' or carrying had been commuted to 2½d. a year. They paid a fine for entry to their tenements and were admitted in the lord's court, while jointly they paid a fine called 'Francwara' of 2s. 9d., but they were free of the more servile fines &c. paid by the unfree tenants.³¹ At this time, one virgate was divided into four holdings and later all 12 seem to have been subdivided, but their identity was not lost. In the 16th century the holdings were called sokons, one tenant being the head of the sokon and when he died or alienated his holding a fine of 16s. was paid, but the other tenants of his sokon paid no fine, when their tenements changed hands, to the lord of the manor.³² The whole manor paid a fine called aid-silver taken at the abbot's will until 1385 when it was fixed at £4 a year.³³



ABBAY OF CROWLAND.
Gules three knives argent with handles or set fessewise quartered with azure three scourges or erect and fessewise.

¹ P.R.O. Min. Accts. Hen. VIII, no. 2020; Cole, op. cit. 146.

² V.C.H. Northants. ii, 262-3.

³ Chan. Proc. (Ser. 2), bde. 390, no. 90; J. Cole, *History and Antiquities of Wellingborough*, 1837, p. 53.

⁴ V.C.H. Northants. ii, 265.

⁵ Cole, op. cit. 237.

⁶ Northants. N. & Q. i, 212-13.

⁷ Ibid. ii, 106.

⁸ Ibid. i, 129; Cal. Treas. Bks. & Papers, 1739-41, pp. 103, 313, 331.

⁹ F. M. Page, 'Bidentes Hoylandie' in *Economic Journal*, Supplement IV, Jan. 1929; Wellingborough Account Rolls.

¹⁰ Tax. Eccles. (Rec. Com.), 54.

¹¹ F. M. Page, op. cit.

¹² Add. MS. 5845, fol. 107.

¹³ Proc. Ct. of Augs. bde. 19, no. 27; Min. Accts. Hen. VIII, no. 2020.

¹⁴ L. and P. Hen. VIII, xx (1), 684, 756.

¹⁵ Cole, op. cit. 241.

¹⁶ Wellingborough Account Rolls, 1312.

¹⁷ Cal. S.P. Dom. 1693, p. 397; Cal. Treas. Bks. & Papers, 1742-5, p. 455.

¹⁸ Northants. N. & Q. ii, 246.

¹⁹ As early as 1645 Joshua Knight was a shoemaker here and left his lasts to his two sons: *ex inf.* M. C. Knight.

²⁰ Cole, op. cit. 160, 170, 174, 176; Ct. R. (P.R.O.), portf. 195, nos. 94, 97.

²¹ Cal. S.P. Dom. 1623-5, pp. 327, 329; 1625-6, p. 1625.

²² S.P. Dom. Charles I, vol. dxi, no. 29

(1); Cal. S.P. Dom. 1628-9, pp. 218, 258.

²³ Dict. Nat. Biog.; Cole, op. cit. 51-2.

²⁴ Dict. Nat. Biog.

²⁵ Ibid.; Northants. N. & Q. i (n.s.), 14-15.

²⁶ V.C.H. Northants. i, 319, 382.

²⁷ V.C.H. Lincoln, ii, 105.

²⁸ V.C.H. Northants. i, 319.

²⁹ Feud. Aids, iv, 16.

³⁰ Plac. de Quo Warr. (Rec. Com.), 518-19.

³¹ Extracts from Register of Abbey of Crowland, Add. MS. 5845, fols. 107 seq.

³² Ct. R. (P.R.O.), portf. 195, nos. 94, 96.

³³ Cal. Pat. 1408-13, p. 447; Northants. N. & Q. vi, no. 857; P.R.O. Min. Accts. Hen. VIII, no. 2020.

The manor was held in demesne by the abbey until its dissolution in 1539¹ and was held by the king until 1550–1,² when Edward VI granted it to Princess Elizabeth.³ The mansion house and demesne lands had been let by the abbey, the last tenants being William Peke and his son John.⁴ The latter had been succeeded by 1547 by his widow Alice and her second husband Thomas Warner,⁵ and in 1568 Queen Elizabeth gave another lease to Edward Cawton.⁶ The manor itself she seems to have retained till 1590, but in 1574 she granted a considerable part of its lands to Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester,⁷ and another grant of lands was made in 1576 to Sir Christopher Hatton.⁸ The manor is not mentioned in either grant, but in 1579 Hatton appears to have bought a large estate in Wellingborough including view of frankpledge and stallage rights from Roger Charnock and his wife Elizabeth,⁹ and this possibly represented Leicester's holding. The Charnocks continued to live there,¹⁰ presumably as tenants of Hatton. In 1590 Elizabeth sold the Crowland manor of Wellingborough, and other property there to Richard Knolles and William Doddington,¹¹ presumably mere speculators, as Hatton died seised of the manor of Wellingborough in 1591.¹² His heir was his nephew Sir William Newport *alias* Hatton, the son of his sister Dorothy,¹³ but he apparently intended to settle it on his cousin John Hatton.¹⁴ Whether he did so seems to have been uncertain in 1616,¹⁵ but the situation was complicated by the fact that Sir Christopher died heavily in debt to the Crown and in 1594 the Queen granted the manor for twenty-one years to William and Francis Tate for the settlement of his debts.¹⁶ Sir William Hatton died in 1596–7, having settled the manor on his elder daughter and heir Frances,¹⁷ who married Robert Rich, 2nd Earl of Warwick.¹⁸ Finally, in 1616 a division was made between Robert Rich and his wife on one hand and Christopher son of John Hatton on the other.¹⁹ From this time the manor was held in two separate portions known as the manor of Wellingborough and the manor of Wellingborough-Hatton.

The manor of *WELLINGBOROUGH* was sold in 1620²⁰ by the Earl of Warwick and his wife to Fulke Greville, Lord Brooke, who left it in his will dated 1627/8 to his cousin Robert Greville.²¹ His family held it till the 19th

century,²² but sold it to John Vivian. From him it passed to Quintus Vivian, who was lord of the manor in 1837²³ and died in 1877. Major Quintus Vivian left a daughter Flora, who married William Frederick Byng, second son of the Earl of Strafford. Their daughter Violet married Dr. Edmund Distin Maddick, C.B.E., whose son, Major Edmund Cecil Strafford Byng-Maddick, is now lord of the manors of Wellingborough.

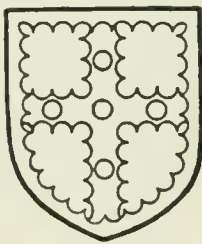
WESTHALL FEE was a small manor held by Crowland Abbey at the time of its dissolution; it was let at farm to John Peke, with the demesnes of the chief manor of Wellingborough,²⁴ into which it was evidently absorbed. This may possibly represent the virgate held in 1086 by the Bishop of Coutances, appurtenant to Harrowden.²⁵ The sub-tenant at that date was Norgot, and in 1199 one Hugh 'son of Norgaut' granted half a virgate in Wellingborough to the Abbot of Crowland.²⁶

The manor of *WELLINGBOROUGH-HATTON*²⁷ was assigned to Christopher Hatton of Kirby, probably in 1616.²⁸ He was created Lord Hatton of Kirby in 1643,²⁹ but in 1649, in order presumably to meet the heavy cost of compounding for his estates with the Commonwealth, he sold Wellingborough-Hatton to Francis Gray,³⁰ a royalist who in 1642 had been seized by the Parliamentarians for not contributing to the defence of the kingdom. The town rose in arms in his defence and reinforcements had to be hurried from Northampton to put down the disturbance.³¹ He must, however, have made his peace with the Parliament before he purchased the Hatton manor. His son, another Francis Gray, settled the manor on his nephew Charles Shepherd in 1703,³² who held in 1719,³³ and afterwards the manor passed to George Shepherd.³⁴ In 1805, it seems to have been in the hands of heiresses,³⁵ from whom it was presumably bought by John Vivian, the lord of Wellingborough manor.³⁶

In the 12th century a hide of land, which was apparently omitted from the Domesday Survey, was held by the Earl of Leicester.³⁷ In 1265 Simon de Montfort, Earl of Leicester,³⁸ forfeited a yearly rent of £10 in Wellingborough, which had been seized by Gilbert de Clare. The overlordship of the honor of Leicester is mentioned in 1488³⁹ and 1535.⁴⁰ In 1205 the sub-tenant of the manor was Robert de Harcourt, whose lands were seized by King John and granted to



HATTON. *Azure a chevron between three sheaves or.*



GREVILLE. *Sable a cross in a border engrailed or with five roundels sable on the cross.*

¹ *Feud. Aids*, iv, 16, 26; *Tax. Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), 54; P.R.O. Min. Accts. Hen. VIII, no. 2020; Dugdale, *Mon.* ii, 126.

² Ct. R. (P.R.O.), portf. 195, nos. 94, 95, 97.

³ *Cal. Pat.* 1549–51, p. 239 and 1550–3, p. 90.

⁴ Proc. Ct. of Augs. bdle. 19, no. 27.

⁵ Pat. 10 Eliz. pt. 1. ⁶ *Ibid.*

⁷ Pat. 16 Eliz. pt. i, mm. 8, 12.

⁸ *Ibid.* 18 Eliz. pt. xiii, m. 10.

⁹ Feet of F. Northants. Trin. 21 Eliz.

¹⁰ S.P. Dom. Eliz. vol. cxcii, no. 41.

¹¹ Pat. 37 Eliz. pt. xviii, m. 19.

¹² Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), cccxxix, no. 193.

¹³ *Ibid.*; C. Metcalfe, *Visitations of Northants.* 27.

¹⁴ Add. MS. 37939.

¹⁵ *Ibid.* Sir William certainly held

courts for the manor in 1593: Finch-Hatton Deeds, 541 (*penes* Northants. Rec. Soc.).

¹⁶ Pat. R. 37 Eliz. pt. 18.

¹⁷ Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), cccxxix, no. 193.

¹⁸ G.E.C. *Complete Peerage*.

¹⁹ Add. MS. 37939.

²⁰ Feet of F. Div. Co. Trin. 17 Jas. I.

²¹ Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), cccclix, no. 90; *ibid.* di. no. 63.

²² *Recov. Mich.* 12 Chas. II, r. 191; *ibid.* Mich. 3 Geo. I, r. 308; *ibid.* Hil. 14 Geo. II, r. 241; *ibid.* Hil. 12 Geo. III, r. 323; *ibid.* East. 40 Geo. III, r. 370; *Northants. N. & Q.* ii, 224; Priv. Act of Parl. 5 Geo. III, c. 28.

²³ Cole, op. cit. 33.

²⁴ Proc. Ct. of Augs. bdle. 19, no. 27; Min. Accts. Hen. VIII, no. 2020.

²⁵ *Proc. Ct. of Augs.* bdle. 19, no. 27.

²⁶ *Proc. Ct. of Augs.* bdle. 19, no. 27.

²⁷ *Proc. Ct. of Augs.* bdle. 19, no. 27.

²⁸ *V.C.H. Northants.* i, 311.

²⁹ Feet of F. Northants. 10 Ric. I, no. 39.

³⁰ The name occurs as early as 1593, when Sir William Hatton held a 'Court of the sokemen': Finch-Hatton Deeds, 929 (*penes* Northants. Rec. Soc.).

³¹ Add. MS. 37939.

³² G.E.C. *Complete Peerage* (2nd ed.), vi, 396. ³³ Close 1649, pt. ix, m. 26.

³⁴ *MSS. of Duke of Portland.* (Hist. MSS. Com.), i, 82.

³⁵ Close, 4 Anne, pt. xiv, no. 10.

³⁶ Cole, op. cit. 126.

³⁷ Bridges, op. cit. ii, 150.

³⁸ Feet of F. Northants. Hil. 40 Geo. III.

³⁹ Cf. Cole, op. cit. 33.

⁴⁰ *V.C.H. Northants.* i, 382.

⁴¹ *Cal. Inq. Misc.* i, no. 833.

⁴² *Cal. Inq. p.m. Hen. VIII*, i, 297.

⁴³ *Valor Eccles.* (Rec. Com.), iv, 310.

A HISTORY OF NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

Philip de Wigornia,¹ but in 1216 John de Harcourt recovered them.² He was succeeded in 1220-1 by Richard de Harcourt, a son of Robert.³ Baldwin de Manners was holding $\frac{1}{2}$ of the vill of Wellingborough in 1285⁴ and a quarter fee there in 1298.⁵ He died in 1320,⁶ and his heir is said to have been Robert de Morley, Marshal of Ireland,⁷ but Wellingborough apparently passed first to William de Morley, the father of Robert, probably in right of his wife.⁸ Robert in 1352 sold this property to Adam Fraunceys and John Piel, citizens of London.⁹ John Piel by his will, proved in 1382, made provision for the foundation of a College of Canons at Irthlingborough.¹⁰ His widow Joan carried out his intentions¹¹ and part of his manor was presumably then given to the College, which at the Dissolution received £12 os. 10½d. from lands in Wellingborough and paid a rent of 3s. 4d. to the 'duchy' of Leicester.¹² The College manor of Wellingborough remained in the king's hands until Edward VI granted it with the manor belonging to Crowland Abbey (q.v.) to Princess Elizabeth¹³ and it was annexed to the honor of Grafton.¹⁴ It followed the descent of that part of the Crowland Abbey manor¹⁵ which came into the possession of Fulk, Lord Brooke, in 1620¹⁶ and is mentioned as a separate manor at the time of the inclosure of the lands of Francis, Earl Brooke and Earl of Warwick, in 1765,¹⁷ but was apparently united to Wellingborough-Hatton by 1837.¹⁸

A manor of *WELLINGBOROUGH*, which was also held of the honor of Leicester,¹⁹ possibly consisted of the remainder of John Piel's property there. In 1363 he enfeoffed Adam Fraunceys, citizen of London, Henry Piel, rector of Workton, and William Braybrook with all his lands in Wellingborough.²⁰ In 1376, another settlement was made by them to which Simon Simeon and John Curteys of Wermington were also parties.²¹ In 1386 a grant by Curteys and Robert Southoo of a water-mill, &c., in Wellingborough to Joan, widow of John Piel, and his son Nicholas for their lives was confirmed by Simon Simeon.²² Joan Piel was seised of lands there in 1412²³ and in 1426 the manor was in the hands of William Braunsparth and Elizabeth his wife.²⁴ Possibly the latter was Elizabeth Piel,²⁵ who afterwards married Sir William Huddleston. Their son Henry Huddleston²⁶ died in or shortly before 1488²⁷ and left the manor of Wellingborough to his daughter Elizabeth, the wife of Sir Thomas Cheyne, in tail, with remainder in default to his executors.²⁸ Sir Thomas

held the property at his death in 1514, but had settled it on his second wife Anne.²⁹ It was claimed, but unsuccessfully, by Margaret widow of Sir George Vere, as the heir of Elizabeth Piel.³⁰ It later passed to Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Thomas Cheyne;³¹ she married Thomas Vaux, son and heir of Sir Nicholas Vaux.³² In 1615 it was in the hands of Elizabeth Vaux, mother of Edward, Lord Vaux of Harrowden, a minor,³³ but no further trace of it can be found.

GAGE'S MANOR appears in 1608, when it was held by Robert Gage of Raunds.³⁴ His son John Gage had succeeded to it by 1624³⁵ and another John Gage and his wife Elizabeth, together with Richard Grace and his wife Mary, probably the daughter and heir of the second John, sold it in 1655 to Francis Gray, the lord of Wellingborough-Hatton manor³⁶ (q.v.).

COGENHO FEE or *CHEYNE'S FEE* may be traced back to the holdings of Countess Judith. She held half a virgate in Wellingborough, appertaining to the manor of Doddington, with which it was valued.³⁷ The tenant in 1086 was named Gilbert.³⁸ She also held half a hide of land in Wellingborough in 1086,³⁹ which passed to the honor of Huntingdon,⁴⁰ of which the fee was still held in 1616.⁴¹ Her tenant was named Hugh.⁴² In the 12th century 3 virgates were held by Nicholas de Cogenho,⁴³ and an Ilbert de Cogenho granted a virgate there to St. Andrew's Priory, Northampton. This gift was confirmed by Henry II.⁴⁴ In the reign of Richard I, Henry de Cogenho alienated the manor to Herlewin de Raunds,⁴⁵ whose descendant William de Raunds held the manor in 1329.⁴⁶ This fee seems to have returned to the Cogenhos, or possibly William de Raunds took the name of Cogenho. In or shortly before 1399, William, son and heir of William de Cogenho, died leaving his sister Agnes as his heir.⁴⁷ She was the wife of John Cheyne,⁴⁸ who in 1412 held lands in Wellingborough and Cogenho⁴⁹ worth over 12 l. per annum. In 1439, William Seymour and his wife Isabel quitclaimed to feoffees for themselves and the heirs of Isabel their right in the manor of Cogenho and lands there and in Wellingborough and Horton, but no explanation appears as to their claims.⁵⁰ The fee returned to the Cheynes and followed the descent of Cogenho (q.v.) until the death of John Cheyne in 1596, when the manor passed to his brother Francis,⁵¹ who sold, or possibly mortgaged, it in 1607 to Robert Sparrow.⁵² As there were Cheynes connected with Wellingborough until 1662, it may have passed to a

¹ *Rot. Litt. Claus.* (Rec. Com.), i, 45b.

² *Ibid.* 250b.

³ *Ibid.* 445.

⁴ *Feud. Aids*, iv, 16.

⁵ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* iii, 423.

⁶ G.E.C. *Complete Peerage*.

⁷ Blomefield, *Hist. of Norfolk*, ii, 444.

⁸ *Cal. Close*, 1349-54, p. 493.

⁹ *Ibid.*

¹⁰ Sharpe, *Cal. of Wills*, ii, 228.

¹¹ *V.C.H. Northants*, ii, 179.

¹² *Valor Eccles.* (Rec. Com.), iv, 309, 310. The honor of Leicester had been absorbed into the Duchy of Lancaster.

¹³ *Cal. Pat.* 1549-51, p. 239.

¹⁴ *Pat.* 16 Eliz. pt. i, m. 13.

¹⁵ *Ibid.* 37 Eliz. pt. xviii, m. 19; 14 Jas. I, pt. xxii. *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), cccxxix, 193.

¹⁶ Feet of F. Northants. Trin. 17 Jas. I; *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), cccclxix, 90.

¹⁷ *Priv. Act of Parl.* 5 Geo. III, c. 28.

¹⁸ Cole, *Hist. of Wellingborough*, 33.

¹⁹ *Cal. Inq. p.m. Hen. VII*, i, 297.

²⁰ *Cal. Close*, 1360-4, p. 523.

²¹ Feet of F. Northants. 50 Edw. III, no. 696.

²² *Cal. Close*, 1385-9, p. 144.

²³ *Feud. Aids*, vi, 495.

²⁴ Feet of F. Northants. 4 Hen. VI, no. 35.

²⁵ She is said to have been daughter of John son of Nicholas Piel: *V.C.H. Northants*, iii, 208.

²⁶ Early Chan. Proc., bdle. 587, no. 40.

²⁷ *Cal. Inq. p.m. Hen. VII*, i, 297.

²⁸ *Ibid.*

²⁹ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), xxix, 3.

³⁰ Early Chan. Proc., bdle. 587, no. 40.

³¹ It is not clear whether she was his daughter by his first or second wife: G.E.C. *Complete Peerage*, viii, 19. Margaret Vere claimed that Dame Elizabeth died childless, but the pedigree and claims which she put forward are not convincing.

³² *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), xxix, 3.

³³ *Exch. Dep. by Com. Mich.* 13 Jas. I,

no. 6, Northants.; G.E.C. *Complete Peerage*.

³⁴ Feet of F. Northants. Trin. 6 Jas. I.

³⁵ *Ibid.* East. 19 Jas. I.

³⁶ *Ibid.* Mich. 1655; cf. Bridges, *op. cit.* ii, 150.

³⁷ *V.C.H. Northants*, i, 354.

³⁸ *Ibid.*

³⁹ *Ibid.* 352.

⁴⁰ *Ibid.* 382; *Plac. de Quo Warr.* (Rec. Com.), 514.

⁴¹ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), cccclvii, 74.

⁴² *V.C.H. Northants*, i, 352.

⁴³ Bridges, *Hist. of Northants*, ii, 150.

⁴⁴ *Ibid.*

⁴⁵ *Plac. de Quo Warr.* (Rec. Com.), 514.

⁴⁶ *Ibid.*

⁴⁷ *Cal. Close*, 1396-99, p. 465.

⁴⁸ *Ibid.*

⁴⁹ *Feud. Aids*, vi, 495.

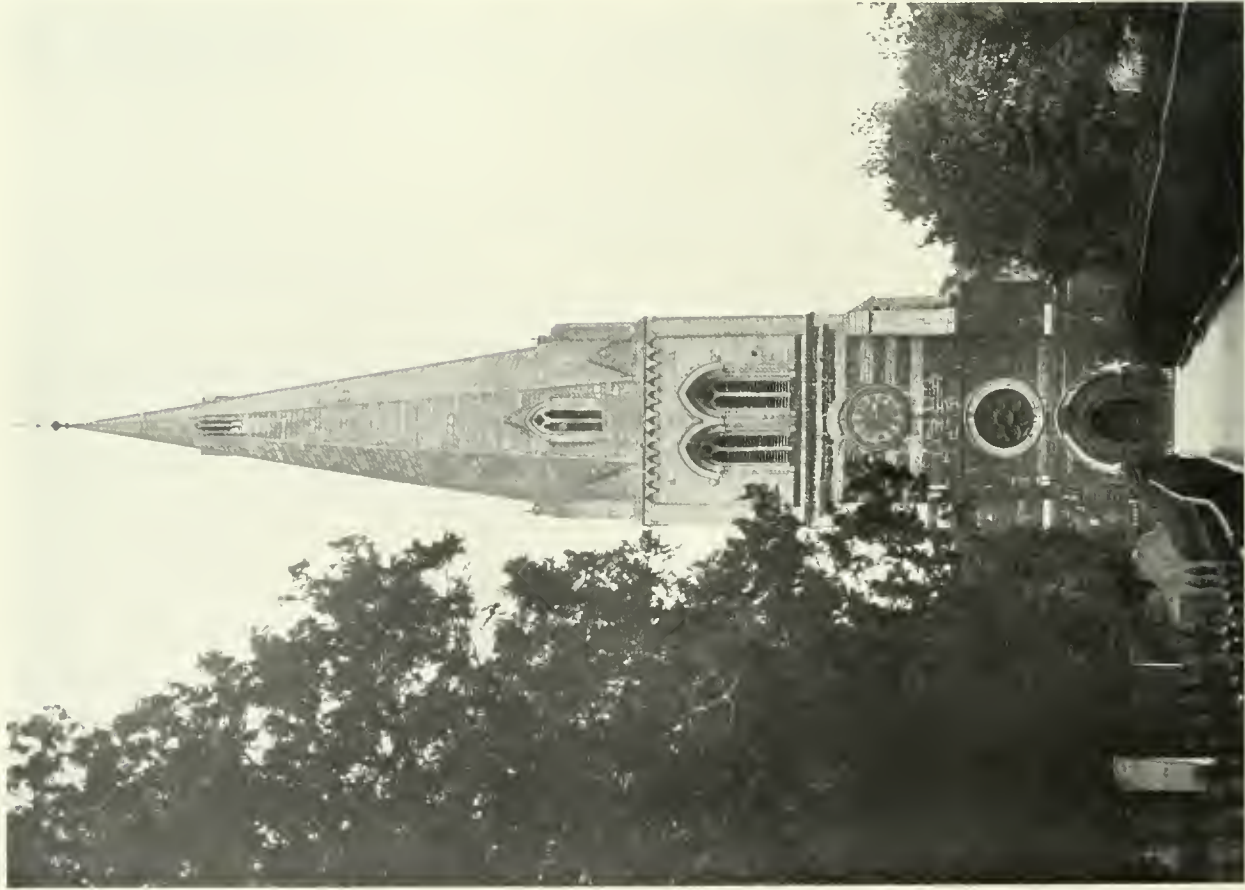
⁵⁰ Feet of F. Northants. 17 Hen. VI, no. 91.

⁵¹ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), cccclvii, 74.

⁵² Feet of F. Northants. East. 5 Jas. I.



WELLINGBOROUGH: THE OLD GRAMMAR SCHOOL



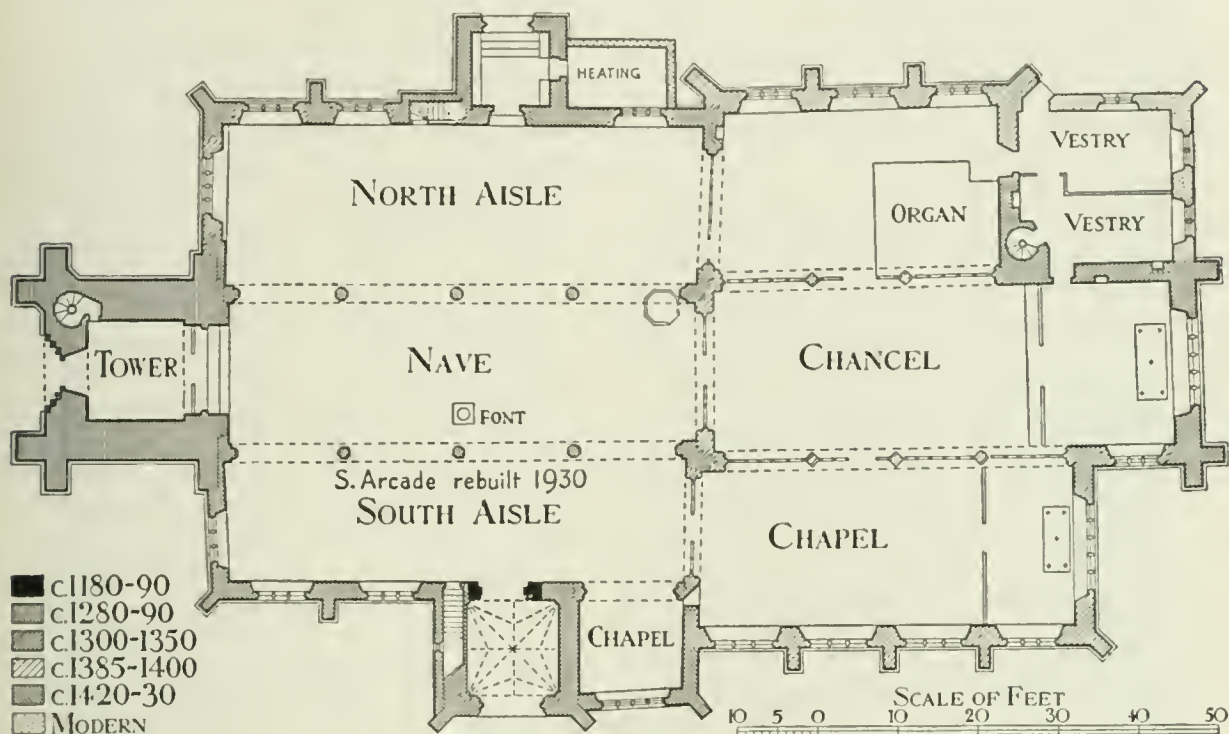
WELLINGBOROUGH: ALL HALLOWS CHURCH; THE TOWER



WELLINGBOROUGH: ALL HALLOWS CHURCH; INTERIOR, LOOKING EAST

younger branch of the family; there are inscriptions in the parish church to Laurence Cheyne who died in 1651¹ and to Edward Cheyne in 1662.² Thomas Roane, who owned Cogenho Fee,³ died in 1676, leaving a daughter Margaret as his heir.⁴ She left various benefactions to the town and at her death in 1717⁵ the manor was presumably sold, George Wentworth holding it about 1720.⁶ John Frederick is reported to have been the lord of a manor in Wellingborough at this period and this may have been Cogenho Fee.⁷ He died in 1775 leaving his property to his wife.⁸

The market is still held on Wednesday. The abbot held a market court called 'Curia Selde', but as early as 1319¹⁵ the profits were farmed with the tolls.¹⁶ The court is not mentioned at the dissolution of the Abbey. In the 18th century the tolls were let on lease,¹⁷ but in 1782 the Earl of Warwick, as lord of the manor, gave up his rights of tolls and stallage and all goods were admitted freely.¹⁸ The tenants of the manor formerly belonging to Irthlingborough College had always been free of toll for their goods.¹⁹ Queen Elizabeth appears to have granted two fairs at Wellingborough to Sir



PLAN OF WELLINGBOROUGH CHURCH

She died in 1788 and left her property in Wellingborough to different nieces, but Cogenho Fee is not mentioned in her will.⁹

In 1086 there were two mills paying 16s. a year and a fishery on the abbey manor.¹⁰ In 1267, these two water-mills and the fishery were farmed out.¹¹ In 1539, one mill was called East mill; another and a fulling-mill were called Staple Mills.¹² In 1674, when the town was growing and a great deal of corn coming into it, an attempt was made by the lessees of these mills to force the inhabitants not to use certain other mills, which had been established in some cases for a long time.¹³

A weekly market at Wellingborough **MARKET** every Wednesday was granted in 1201 by King John to the Abbey of Crowland¹⁴ and the privilege passed with the abbey's manor (q.v.).

Christopher Hatton,²⁰ but during the 18th century,²¹ as at the present day, three fairs were held, the dates being the Wednesdays in Easter and Whit weeks and the 29th October.

The church of **ALL HALLOW'S**²² **CHURCHES** stands in the middle of the town, north of the market-place, and consists of chancel, 58 ft. by 20 ft. 6 in., with north and south chapels and north vestry; clerestoried nave, 59 ft. by 17 ft. 6 in.; north aisle, 20 ft. 3 in. wide; south aisle, 15 ft. wide; south transeptal chapel, 13 ft. 3 in. by 11 ft. 6 in.; north and south porches, and west tower, 12 ft. 9 in. square, all these measurements being internal. The tower is surmounted by a stone spire. The Corpus Christi chapel on north side of the chancel (now in part used as an organ-chamber) is 35 ft. long by 20 ft. in width, and the Lady Chapel on the

¹ Cole, op. cit. 86.

² Ibid. 83.

³ Bridges, op. cit. ii, 150.

⁴ Cole, op. cit. 80.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Bridges, loc. cit.

⁷ Cole, op. cit. 126.

⁸ Ibid. 63; P.C.C. 138 Alexander.

⁹ Cole, op. cit. 63; P.C.C. 243 Calvert.

¹⁰ P.C.H. Northants. i, 319.

¹¹ Wellingborough Acct. R.

¹² Min. Accts. Hen. VIII, 2020.

¹³ Exch. Dep. by Com. Trin. 26 Chas. II,

no. 1; Min. Accts. Hen. VIII, 2020.

¹⁴ Chart. R. 2 John, m. 6.

¹⁵ Add. MS. 5845, fol. 107.

¹⁶ Cf. Manor Accts. (Queens' College, Cambridge), 1283, 1322.

¹⁷ Cole, op. cit. 242.

¹⁸ Ibid.

¹⁹ Pat. 37 Eliz. pt. 18.

²⁰ Bridges, op. cit. ii, 149; Roy. Com. on Market Rights, 190.

²¹ The proper dedication is to All Saints, but during the 19th century the church became known as St. Luke's, and in 1867 a new church in the Midland road was dedicated to All Saints. When the invocation to St. Luke was found to be wrong, the parish church became known as All Hallows.

²² Ibid.

A HISTORY OF NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

south side 48 ft. by 20 ft. The vestry is east of the north chapel. The small transeptal chapel fills the space between the south porch and the Lady Chapel. The width across nave and aisles is 57 ft. 9 in.

The south doorway is all that is left of a church of the late 12th century which probably was aisleless and with a small square-ended chancel. The tower was begun c. 1280, but it and the spire were not completed till about twenty years later. The rebuilding of the nave, with north and south aisles, seems to have begun from the west end after the tower was finished c. 1300, both arcades being of that period, and was followed by the building of the chancel on its present plan, the east window of which, c. 1310, remains unaltered. The existence of chapels north and south of the chancel is shown by the west respond of an early-14th-century south arcade and the arch between the north chapel and nave aisle. The north aisle seems to have been widened later in the century and north and south porches added, the plan of the church then to a great extent assuming its present shape. By an arbitration of 1383-4 the abbot and convent of Croyland engaged to rebuild the chancel. The work was probably begun soon after; it comprised new chancel arcades and the rebuilding of both chapels on their present plan, that on the south side being increased in length,¹ but the east wall remained unaltered. New windows appear to have been inserted in the north aisle about this time, and shortly after, perhaps c. 1420-30, the south aisle west of the porch seems to have been rebuilt on the old foundation and the chapel erected to the east of it.² Late in the 15th century the church was new roofed, the chancel roof being then raised and the clerestory windows altered. The vestry is an enlarged rebuilding in modern times of a two-story 14th-century sacristy in the same position, the steps to the upper chamber of which remain. Some rebuilding on the south side of the church appears to have taken place in 1530,³ and possibly some of the existing ashlar facing is of this period. In 1815 the church was uniformly paved,⁴ and in 1861 underwent an extensive restoration when galleries on three sides erected in the previous century were removed⁵ and the nave and aisles newly seated. The Lady Chapel was restored in 1907. The nave arcades were rebuilt in 1930.

With the exception of the tower the older parts of the building are of local ironstone, but the later work is faced with freestone, and the roofs are leaded and of low pitch. The lead of the nave roof overhangs, and the south porch has a plain parapet, but elsewhere the parapets are battlemented and of freestone.

The chancel has an east window of five lights, with moulded jambs and mullions and geometrical tracery, the circular centrepiece of which consists of three trefoiled triangles with the intervening spaces filled with ogee trefoils: the hollow moulding round the opening is enriched with sculptured animal figures and foliage,

and the hood-mould terminates in a finial which serves to support the pedestal of a canopied niche breaking the battlement. The boldly carved symbols of the four evangelists are placed at the corners of the square of the window, the two upper, those of St. John and St. Matthew, serving as stops to the hood-mould.⁶ On the south side the chancel stands free of the Lady Chapel by a bay and has an inserted three-light window similar to those of the chapels, but on the north its east end is covered by the vestry, the doorway to which is original. There are no sedilia or piscina, but there is an aumbry in the north wall. The chancel arcades consist of three arches on the north side and four on the south, all of two moulded orders on piers of four attached shafts with hollows between, on high plinths, the shafts having separate moulded capitals and bases. The responds are single attached shafts with the outer, wave-moulded, order carried to the ground on each side. The west respond in the south side is built in front of the respond of the early-14th-century arcade, which is of two hollow-chamfered orders with moulded capital, visible only from the chapel. The chancel arch is contemporary with and of the same detail as the north and south arcades, as is also the arch at the west end of the south chapel. The 14th-century arch between the north chapel and nave aisle is of two hollow-chamfered orders on half-octagonal responds with moulded capitals and bases. The chancel arcades are filled with good 15th-century oak screens: the rood-screen and loft and the screens at the west ends of the chapels are modern.⁷ In the chancel are six return stalls, three on each side of the screen doorway, with carved misericords, the subjects of which are: north side, (1) ale-wife and customer, (2) eagle, (3) two lions; south side, (4) wood-carver at work, (5) mermaid, (6) fox and goose. The supporters are roses, eagles, lions, foliage, dolphins, and balls of foliage. The date of the stalls is fixed within a few years by the arms of White which occur on one of the elbows, John White having been rector 1361-92.⁸

The chancel has a good 15th-century roof of five bays with moulded principals, but the corbels of the earlier high-pitched roof remain. The roofs of the chapels, of three and four bays respectively, are equally good, with moulded beams and carved bosses: they have been recently restored.

The south chapel has an east window of five lights, but with this exception the windows of both chapels are lofty openings of three cinquefoiled lights with vertical tracery of two stages divided by a battlemented transom.⁹ They are evenly spaced with intervening and diagonal angle buttresses. In the south chapel is a piscina and the altar rails are those formerly in the chancel.

The early-14th-century nave arcades are of four bays with pointed arches of two hollow-chamfered orders on octagonal piers of ironstone with moulded

¹ Its east wall is built against a buttress of the chancel.

² The order in which the later work in the building took shape is difficult to fix with certainty, but the south chapel is obviously a filling in of the space between the porch and the Lady Chapel, though its character is little different from those of the rebuilt chancel.

³ Robert Hanyet in his will (1530) left 'to the making of the south side of the church so much money as shall glaze the middle window': *Arch. Jour.* lxx, 431.

⁴ Cole, *Hist. of Wellingborough*, 285.

⁵ There were two galleries at the west end, 'one receding from & rising above the other': *ibid.* 51. A gallery was first erected in 1682, and in 1724 a new one was built in 'the north-west corner of the body of the church'.

⁶ Sharpe, *Decorated Window Tracery*, plate 35. The total height of the opening is 16 ft. 6 in. and its width 9 ft. 10 in. The mouldings of the tracery are of two orders. 'Perhaps no window can be more

advantageously selected as marking the termination of the geometrical period and the commencement of the next as this example': *ibid.* 79.

⁷ The rood-screen, loft, and rood with attendant figures date from 1917.

⁸ *Northants. N. & Q.* vi, 33. The stalls were then (1896) on the north and south sides. The figure of a carver at work also occurs at Great Doddington.

⁹ The jambs and mullions of the windows are moulded.

capitals and bases. The south jamb of a contemporary window remains in the west wall of the north aisle, but the existing window in that position is of four cinquefoiled lights with vertical tracery, all the other windows of the aisles being of the same type but of three lights.

The late-12th-century south doorway has a semi-circular arch of two orders, the inner with chevron ornament, the outer with a roll and hollow moulding, on octagonal shafts with cushion capitals and moulded bases: the shafts are enriched with chevron ornament. The inner order rests on imposts with scroll volutes, below which the jambs are chamfered. The four-centred north doorway is modern, but the covering porch has a 14th-century outer doorway of two chamfered orders on half-round responds with moulded capitals,¹ and above it is a plain niche. The porch has an upper chamber approached by a wall stair from the aisle and lighted by small windows east and west: there are also narrow openings on the north side, on either side of the niche.

The south porch is also of two stories, with a stairway in the west wall entered from the aisle.² The chamber may be an early-15th-century addition, the west wall of the porch being then rearranged for steps; if so, it was completed before the erection of the chapel on the east side.³ The porch has diagonal angle buttresses and an elaborate 15th-century groined vault springing from angle shafts with moulded bases,⁴ but without capitals. The outer doorway is of two continuous chamfered orders, and above it is a cinquefoiled niche containing a modern Pietà, with a small trefoil-headed window on each side lighting the chamber.

The small south chapel east of the porch opens from the aisle by an arch similar to, and no doubt copied from, that adjoining at the west end of the Lady Chapel. It has a four-light window in the south wall, and a squint cut through the north end of the east wall directed to the high altar. The bosses of the panelled oak roof have shields with the emblems of the Passion. The roof of the south aisle is also of the 15th century, but the roofs of the nave and north aisle are modern.

There are four clerestory windows on each side: three on the south and the westernmost on the north are 14th-century square-headed openings of two lights, but the others on the north have depressed arches and two of them are of three cinquefoiled lights.

The tower is of three stages, with moulded plinth, coupled buttresses to the height of the second story, and vice in the north-west angle. The two lower stages are faced with alternate bands of ironstone and oolite, above which the walls are of dressed freestone. The west doorway⁵ has a pointed arch of three orders

springing from nook-shafts with moulded capitals and bases, above which is a traceried circular window. The middle stage has pointed windows of two trefoiled lights with quatrefoil in the head, that on the west now blocked and covered with a clock dial, but the lower stage north and south is blank. The face of the upper story is slightly recessed, with shafted pilaster angle buttresses, and has double bell-chamber windows of two lights with arches of two moulded orders on shafts with moulded capitals and bases. The tower finishes with a bold corbel table and has tall pinnacles rising from the broaches of the spire, the angles of which are ribbed. The spire is 165 ft. in height,⁶ and has gabled lights on the cardinal faces near the top and bottom.⁷ The tower arch is of three chamfered orders towards the nave, the innermost order springing from half-round responds with moulded capitals and bases. The screen was erected in 1907.

The font appears to have been formed from the socket stone of a cross, worked from square to octagon shape by plain broaches, the centre hollowed to a circular bowl and lined with lead: the surface has been scraped or recut; it is mounted on a square stone base.⁸

The pulpit is modern and of wood.

Near the south doorway is an elaborate mural monument⁹ with effigies of a man and a woman with no other inscription than the date '1570', which according to Bridges commemorates Lingar, serjeant of the bakehouse to Queen Elizabeth.¹⁰ A marble slab to Walter de Scaultorp, noted by Bridges¹¹ in the north chapel, has now disappeared, and several 'slabs of great antiquity' mentioned by Cole have likewise gone. There is a considerable number of memorial stones and tablets, a few of late-17th-century date but mostly belonging to the 18th century and later.¹² A tablet commemorating William Batley, architect, d. 1674, is built into the outer wall of the vestry.

There are eight bells, two trebles by Taylor & Co. of Loughborough having been added in 1884 to a former ring of six, one of which (now the fifth) was then recast. The third (old treble) was given by Sir Paul Pindar in 1640, the fourth is by Newcombe of Leicester 1604, the sixth by Islip Edmunds of London 1764, the seventh dated 1620, and the tenor 1639.¹³ There is also a priest's bell, cast by Henry Penn of Peterborough in 1708.

The plate is all of silver gilt and consists of a cup¹⁴ and cover paten of 1564, a cup, paten, and two flagons of 1634 given by Sir Paul Pindar in that year, a paten of 1719, a cup of c. 1730 purchased from a Spanish convent and given to the church in 1843, and an alms dish of 1874.¹⁵ There are also three plated alms dishes, 1861.

The registers before 1812 are as follows: (i) all

¹ The bases are covered.

² The doorway, long blocked, was opened out in 1928, the stairway widened, the groining strengthened, and the chamber restored to form a library—a bay window being inserted at the north end overlooking the nave. In the course of these alterations a 13th-century grave slab with incised calvary cross was found in the west wall. The lower moulding of the parapet of the aisle runs through the roof of the porch.

³ This is implied by a window in the east wall of the chamber, now opening on to the chapel.

⁴ The bases of the shafts appear to

belong to the 14th-century work. The groining was probably inserted after the completion of the upper story.

⁵ It was restored in 1887–8.

⁶ Bridges, *Hist. of Northants*, ii, 151.

⁷ About 12 ft. of the top of the spire was rebuilt in 1886.

⁸ *Assoc. Arch. Soc. Reports*, xxiii, 192. It was turned out of the church in 1815, and in Cole's time (1837) was in the vicarage garden; it was restored to use during the incumbency of the Rev. G. P. Lightfoot (c. 1870).

⁹ It was moved to its present position from over the doorway in 1928. In Bridges' time it was against the east wall

of the south chapel.

¹⁰ Bridges, *op. cit.* ii, 152.

¹¹ *Ibid.* 152. It was inscribed round the edge: 'Hic jacet dominus Walterus de Scaultorp quondam rector ecclesiae de Arold istius . . .'. Presumably he was rector of Harrold, Beds.

¹² The inscriptions are given in Cole's *History* (1837).

¹³ North, *Ch. Bells of Northants*, 435, where the inscriptions on the older bells are given. The third, seventh, and tenor bear the shield of Hugh Watts of Leicester. The old third was dated 1729.

¹⁴ Now used as a ciborium.

¹⁵ Markham, *Ch. Plate of Northants*, 305.

entries 1586-1623; (ii) baptisms 1628-74,¹ marriages 1624-71, burials 1624-74; (iii) baptisms 1675-1702, marriages and burials 1675-1701; (iv) baptisms and burials 1702-75, marriages 1702-54; (v) baptisms 1775-1811, burials 1775-1810; (vi) marriages 1754-1812.

In the churchyard west of the tower is a memorial cross to those who fell in the war of 1914-18.

The church of *ALL SAINTS*, on the Midland road, was built in 1868 and enlarged in 1890. It is of stone, in the 14th-century style, and consists of apsidal chancel, clerestoried nave, aisles, south porch, and vestry.

The church of *ST. BARNABAS*, at the west end of the town, was erected in 1893 as a chapel of ease to the parish church. It is built of red brick with Bath stone dressings in the style of the 14th and 15th centuries and consists of chancel, nave, aisles, vestry, and south porch. Outside, at the west end, is a Weldon stone cross erected in 1920 as a War memorial.

The church of *ST. MARY*, serving an ecclesiastical parish formed in 1904, was built, at the expense of the late Misses Sharman, from designs by J. N. Comper. It is of local ironstone with Weldon dressings, and consists of chancel and nave with aisles and north and south chapels, two-storied north porch with bell turret, and west tower. The three western bays of the nave and the tower were completed in 1930; there is a classical screen carrying a rood loft, and some good modern glass.

The church is said to have been *ADVOWSON* granted with the manor of Wellingborough (q.v.) to the abbey of Crowland in the 10th century.² A priest is mentioned among the abbey tenants in 1086.³ The church was appropriated to the abbey before 1229⁴ and was valued at £40 in 1291.⁵ At the time of the Dissolution, the rectory was leased to John Peke for £33 6s. 8d., while another £5 was received from the tithe hay let from year to year.⁶ The rectory was granted for life in 1543 by Henry VIII to William, Lord Parr, who had been steward of the manor under Crowland, and two years later the grant was extended to 8 years after his death.⁷ It passed on the division of the Hatton property to Sir Robert Rich and his wife⁸ and, except for a short period in the 19th century, has been owned by the lord of Wellingborough Manor (q.v.).⁹ In 1837 the impropriator was the Rev. Charles Pasby Vivian, when the lord of the manor was Quintus Vivian.¹⁰

The advowson of the vicarage, which was instituted before 1229,¹¹ was held by Crowland Abbey until its dissolution.¹² It was granted with the rectory to Princess Elizabeth,¹³ and has since belonged to the impropriators of the rectory.¹⁴ In 1802, however, Earl Brooke

sold the next presentation to William Price,¹⁵ whose executor, William Davis, presented to the living in 1810.¹⁶ The advowson now belongs to Major Strafford Byng-Maddick.

In 1229 the vicarage consisted of the small tithes, the altar dues, and half a virgate of land,¹⁷ which still was attached to the vicarage in the 16th century.¹⁸ In the 13th century a pension of 46s. was paid yearly to Crowland Abbey,¹⁹ but in 1535 40s. was paid to the abbot and 6s. 8d. to the almoner.²⁰ During the Commonwealth, the living was increased from the first-fruits and tenths.²¹ In 1555 William Blinko, the vicar, was deprived of his living under Queen Mary.²² In 1633, another vicar, Thomas Jones, was chosen by the Bishop of Peterborough to be present at the translation of Archbishop Laud to Canterbury.²³ Complaint was made of his preaching alternate Sunday afternoons at Higham Ferrers for a salary of 20l. a year and so giving his parishioners an excuse 'to gad after Mr. Perne of Wilbye'.²⁴ He was a staunch royalist and was twice imprisoned under the Commonwealth, finally dying in gaol.²⁵

With the growth of the town, new parishes have been formed: All Saints, in the gift of the vicar of Wellingborough, in 1872; St. Mary, in the gift of trustees, in 1904; and St. Barnabas, in the gift of the Bishop of Peterborough, in 1910. The Roman Catholic church was built in 1885 and there are a Friends' meeting house,²⁶ two Congregational, one Baptist, and three Methodist chapels.

The *CHantry* of St. Mary was endowed in 1328 by John de Surfet, vicar of Wellingborough, with an annual rent of 5 marks to provide a chaplain to say mass in the 'church' of St. Mary.²⁷ Possibly a separate chapel of St. Mary then existed, as a road called St. Mary Lane is mentioned in the 16th century²⁸ and in 1500 Richard Clerke bequeathed 6s. 8d. for the repair of the chapel of St. Mary.²⁹ More probably the 'church' was the chapel of St. Mary in the parish church.

The *GUILD* of St. Mary³⁰ was founded in the parish church of Wellingborough and was formally constituted and endowed with lands and rent in 1392.³¹ It consisted of brothers and sisters who yearly elected two wardens or aldermen.³² Further endowments were made by Sir John Gubben, priest, William Elyott, and Simon Blewitt.³³ The last-named left by will, in 1505, 8 acres of copyhold land for a chaplain to celebrate mass in the chapel of St. Mary,³⁴ but after some years John Smart, claiming to be Blewitt's heir, recovered possession of the land. In spite of the intervention of Lord Parr and other Wellingborough inhabitants in 1544, Smart seems to have been in possession in 1551.³⁵ At the sup-

¹ Baptisms 1624-7 have been cut out.

² Dugdale, *Mon.* ii, 114.

³ *V.C.H. Northants.* i, 319.

⁴ *Rot. H. de Welles* (Cant. & York Soc.), ii, 148, 264-5.

⁵ *Pope Nich. Tax.* (Rec. Com.), 39.

⁶ Min. Accts. Hen. VIII, no. 2020; cf. Priv. Act of Parl. 5 Geo. III, c. 28; Exch. Dep. by Com. Trin. 22 Eliz. no. 7.

⁷ *L. and P. Hen. VIII*, xviii, p. 547; xx, pt. i, p. 678.

⁸ Feet of F. Northants. Trin. 9 Jas. I; Hil. 14 Jas. I; Mich. 15 Jas. I; Trin. 17 Jas. I; Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), cccxix, 193.

⁹ Ibid. C. 142, cccclxix, 90; di. 63; Recov. R. Mich. 12 Chas. II, r. 191; Mich. 3 Geo. I, r. 308; Hil. 14 Geo. II, r. 241; Hil. 12 Geo. III, r. 323; East. 40 Geo. III, r. 370.

¹⁰ Cole, op. cit. 33.

¹¹ *Rot. H. de Welles* (Cant. & York Soc.), ii, 148.

¹² *Rot. R. Grosseteste* (Cant. & York Soc.), 248; *Rot. Ric. Gravesende* (Cant. & York Soc.), 109, 121-3; *Valor Eccles.* (Rec. Com.), iv, 305.

¹³ *Cal. Pat.* 1549-51, p. 239.

¹⁴ Cole, op. cit. 57-61 (list of presentations); Instit. Bks. (P.R.O.).

¹⁵ Recov. R. Mich. 43 Geo. III, r. 30.

¹⁶ Instit. Bks. (P.R.O.) 1810; Cole, op. cit. 60.

¹⁷ *Rot. H. de Welles* (Cant. & York Soc.), ii, 148.

¹⁸ Exch. Dep. Northants. Trin. 22 Eliz. no. 7.

¹⁹ Cott. MS. Nero D. x, fols. 177 d., 182; *Tax. Eccles.* (Rec. Com.), 42b.

²⁰ *Valor Eccles.* (Rec. Com.), iv, 305.

²¹ *Cal. S.P. Dom.* 1653-4, p. 39.

²² *Northants. N. & Q.* i, 215-16.

²³ Cole, op. cit. 59.

²⁴ *Cal. S.P. Dom.* 1633-4, p. 193.

²⁵ Cole, op. cit. 59.

²⁶ The Friends' meeting house was built in 1819, but Wellingborough has been a stronghold of their Society since the 17th century.

²⁷ Inq. a.q.d. file 202, no. 12; Pat. 2 Edw. III, pt. 1, m. 3.

²⁸ *Cal. Pat.* 1549-51, p. 20.

²⁹ Cole, op. cit. 146.

³⁰ *Cal. Pat.* 1391-6, p. 175.

³¹ Inq. a.q.d. file 420, no. 19; *Cal. Pat.* 1391-6, p. 175.

³² Ibid.

³³ Aug. Off. Misc. Bks., vol. 129, f. 130.

³⁴ Ibid.

pression of the chantries the income was partly applied to the repair of the town bridges,¹ but a stipend of £3 6s. 8d. was paid to Thomas Castelyn, who had served as organist in the parish church for 30 years and kept a song school.² On petition, he recovered his stipend and was receiving it in 1554.³ Payments were made about 1537 for 3 years out of the Guild funds to Sir John Holland, clerk, who also kept a school. This is possibly the first surviving reference to a pre-reformation grammar school here.⁴ It lends force to the suggestion found in the chantry certificate that the king should establish a free school, out of the income of the Guild lands, the vicar and town undertaking to augment the endowment.⁵ In 1549, the Guild lands were granted to John Monson and probably the school was then established, although the governing statutes were not issued till 1595.⁶

The origin of the Fraternity of Corpus Christi⁷ or Corpus Christi and St. George⁸ is unknown, but it existed in 1500.⁹ It is said to have been united before 1522 with the Guild of St. Mary (q.v.),¹⁰ but in 1539 the provost paid the rent due from the lands in Wharldyke and Barwellend, held by the Fraternity, as if it was still a separate body.¹¹ It is not mentioned in the Chantry Certificate for Wellingborough,¹² nor were its lands included in the grant of Guild lands to John Monson in 1549.¹³ It seems, therefore, to have survived the Dissolution of the Chantries and, under Queen Mary, bequests were made to it in 1557.¹⁴

The Fraternity of St. Catherine is mentioned in the will of William Fisher in 1518, when a chapel of St. Catherine was in existence,¹⁵ probably in the parish church of Wellingborough. The Fraternity is not mentioned at the Dissolution of the Chantries,¹⁶ although it received bequests certainly as late as 1539.¹⁷ In 1518, William Fisher left 10s. to the Fraternity of the Jesus Mass,¹⁸ but though other bequests are recorded for maintaining the Mass of Jesus¹⁹ this appears to be the only mention of a fraternity. In 1549, lands and rents given to maintain certain obits, lights, and lamps in various townships included a yearly rent of 4d. in Wellingborough.²⁰ In 1551, however, the Light land in Wellingborough was said to be of the yearly value of 3s. 4d., which was used to maintain a light before the rood of the parish church.²¹

The Church Lands. Some 12 acres **CHARITIES** were allotted in 1768 by the Inclosure Commissioners in lieu of certain headlands which had from time immemorial been let for the repairs of the church. The land was sold in 1920 and the proceeds invested, producing about £120. The income is applied by the churchwardens in the maintenance of the church and churchyard.

William Peake by will dated 9 January 1596 gave a yearly rent of £5 4s. charged upon lands at Hoxton in London to the poor. The charge was redeemed by the transfer of £208 2½ per cent. Annuities to the Official Trustees. The income is distributed in bread and blankets.

By his will, 27 July 1665, John Orlebar gave £100

to the poor. This legacy was invested in land which has been sold and the proceeds invested, producing £15 14s. 8d. yearly in dividends. The income is applied by the vicar and churchwardens and two trustees appointed by the Urban District Council in the distribution of blankets.

Edward Cheney by will dated 4 April 1662 gave a yearly rentcharge of 6s. out of his house and ground in Chelsea for distribution in bread to the poor. The charge has been redeemed by the transfer of £12 2½ per cent. Annuities to the Official Trustees.

John Pulley by his will in 1693 gave a rentcharge of £5 4s. to be distributed in bread to 24 poor inhabitants. This charge is paid by the Wellingborough Iron Company out of land in Finedon.

Samuel Knight by his will in 1728 gave a rentcharge of £2 for distribution in bread to the poor. This charge is paid out of property in Wellingborough.

Thomas Sheppard in 1733 gave £20 to the vicar and churchwardens, the interest thereon to be distributed in bread on St. Thomas' Day. This legacy produces about 11s. yearly in dividends.

Mrs. Ann Glassbrook by will dated 11 September 1790 bequeathed £20 yearly to be equally divided by the vicar and churchwardens among four poor widows. This endowment now produces £10 10s. yearly in dividends.

The following charities are in connexion with the United Wellingborough Congregational church:

John Gibbs founded by declaration of trust dated 14 May 1834 endowment producing £3 annually in dividends which are applied for the benefit of the minister of the said church.

Elizabeth Whitworth founded by will dated 9 September 1854 endowment producing £4 2s. 4d. annually in dividends which are applied for the benefit of the poor of the said church and the Sunday school.

James Whitworth and Sarah Swannell comprised in a declaration of trust dated 17 October 1877 endowments producing £18 yearly in dividends which are applied for the benefit of the minister of the said church.

William Brown founded by will proved on the 17 October 1900 endowments, the dividends on which are applied for the benefit of sick members of the said church and for the benefit of the Band of Hope in connexion with the said church.

Janet Kincaid founded by will proved on the 6 September 1878 endowment for the benefit of the poor of the said church.

Adam Corrie founded by will proved on the 18 December 1846 endowment for the benefit of the minister and poor of the said church.

The sums of Stock constituting these endowments are invested in trustees.

Frederick William Bradshaw founded by indenture dated 28 March 1906 endowment consisting of four cottages with gardens, the rents of which are applied in repairing the said cottages and for the general purposes of the School chapel.

¹ Chantry Certif. 35, no. 16.

² Aug. Off. Misc. Bks., vol. 129, f. 130.

³ Add. MS. 8102.

⁴ Aug. Off. Misc. Bks., vol. 129, ff. 31-2; cf. *V.C.H. Northants*, ii, 262.

⁵ Chantry Certif. 35, no. 16.

⁶ *Cal. Pat.* 1549-51, p. 20; *V.C.H. Northants*, ii, 262.

⁷ Will of Richard Clerke (1500), in

Cole, op. cit. 146; *P.C.C.* 32 Dyngley (1539).

⁸ *P.C.C.* F. 17 Noodes (1557).

⁹ *Cole*, op. cit. 146.

¹⁰ *V.C.H. Northants*, ii, 262.

¹¹ *P.R.O. Min. Accts. Hen. VIII*, no. 2020.

¹² Chantry Certif. 35, no. 16.

¹³ *Cal. Pat.* 1549-51, p. 20.

¹⁴ *P.C.C.* F. 17 and 30 Noodes.

¹⁵ *Ibid.* 14 Ayloff.

¹⁶ Chantry Certif. 35, no. 16.

¹⁷ *P.C.C.* 32 Dyngley.

¹⁸ *Ibid.* 14 Ayloff.

¹⁹ *Ibid.* 12 Dyngley (1537), 32 Dyngley (1539).

²⁰ Chantry Certif. 35, no. 16.

²¹ Aug. Off. Misc. Bks., vol. 129, f. 130.

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Elizabeth Goodman by will dated 8 May 1728 gave a rent-charge of £3 per annum to the vicar and churchwardens for distribution in prizes to scholars in All Saints School and Freeman's School, Wellingborough.

The Charity of George Lawrence founded by will proved on the 13 October 1914 is regulated by a Scheme of the Charity Commissioners dated 19 September 1916. The endowment produces about £39 yearly. One-eleventh of the income of the charity is applied by three trustees for the general purposes of the Welling-

borough Cottage Hospital and the residue for the benefit of not more than ten aged married couples.

The Charity of Richard Fisher for the poor, founded by will dated 9 May 1711, is regulated by a Scheme of the High Court of Chancery of the 24 March 1819. The endowment originally consisted of land which was sold, and is now represented by Stock with the Official Trustees. The dividends amounting to £25 18s. 6d. annually are distributed by trustees appointed by deed to two poor aged inhabitants not having received parish relief.

WILBY

Wilbi, Wyleby, Welby (xi-xiv cent.); Wilby (xv-xx cent.).

The parish of Wilby covers 1,161 acres. The soil is rich loam with a clay subsoil, and cereals form the chief crops. The highest point in the parish is 388 ft. in the north-west. From there the land slopes gradually to the south-east, where the lowest point is 214 ft. The main road approaches the parish from the south and runs north-east to Wellingborough, passing through Wilby village. St. Mary's Church is situated a little to the west of this road; other places of worship are the Methodist chapel and a Congregational Sunday school. Of the manor-house, on the south of the village, the only relic is a rectangular stone dove-house. To the east of the village lie the brickworks, and near the road which runs west to Mears Ashby are several stone-pits. Wilby parish was inclosed in 1801.¹

Bridges writing in 1719 says that 'Certain closes named Bareshanks, belonging to Mr. Sheppard and Mr. Lord, pay a modus, the first of 4s. and the latter of 1s., only in lieu of tithes'.²

In 1086 the Countess Judith held 4 *MANORS* hides in *WILBY*. Bondi had been the tenant in the Confessor's time.³ Until 1329 this overlordship follows the same descent as the manor of Fotheringhay.⁴ In 1242 one-third of a fee in Wilby, formerly of the honor of Huntingdon, was said to be held of Hugh Dispenser,⁵ a whole fee being at the same time held of William de Forz and John de Baillol as of their portion of the honor of Huntingdon.⁶ In 1329 John of Brittany, Earl of Richmond, then holding Fotheringay Castle, was overlord of Wilby,⁷ and Wilby was among the fees held of Edward Prince of Wales at the time of his death.⁸ The overlordship is last mentioned in connexion with this manor in 1388.⁹

During the 13th century the manor appears to have been held by a family who took their name from the parish. Two fees in the county were held of Earl David by John de Wileby in 1204,¹⁰ and presentation to the church of Wilby was made in 1219 by Sir Philip de Hamton as guardian of the heir of John de Wileby.¹¹ This heir was probably John's grandson, Walter; John

seems to have had a son Robert de Wileby, also called Robert le Eyr,¹² who married twice. By his first wife Amice he had three sons, William and Robert, who died childless, and Walter, whose two sons William and John were living in 1260; by his second wife Lucy he had four sons, Peter, Roger, Elias, and Stephen.¹³ Lucy survived until, at least, 1232.¹⁴ In 1242 a certain Robert son of Richard held in Wilby one-third fee of Walter de Wileby and one fee 'with the heir of Robert Foliot'.¹⁵ A John Foliot was dealing with land in Wilby in 1203,¹⁶ as was Robert Foliot in 1226,¹⁷ and it looks as if Robert son of Richard, called 'de Northampton' in 1243 when he presented to Wilby church,¹⁸ had married the widow of Robert Foliot and was guardian of his heir, holding the manor under Walter. William de Wileby, presumably Walter's son, was seised of the manor in right of Margery his wife (possibly the said heir of Foliot) and granted it to 'Eudes' Fitz Warin.¹⁹ William Fitz Warin died in 1299, holding the manor of William son of William de Wileby.²⁰ His son Alan Fitz Warin in 1310 mortgaged the manor to John de Wileby for a debt of £600,²¹ but by 1329 it had passed to Alan's daughter Elizabeth and her husband Henry de Maundeville.²² In 1330 they conceded the manor to Peter Fitz Warin for his life.²³ Henry de Maundeville was succeeded by his son²⁴ Richard,²⁵ who continued in possession until 1359 when he conceded the manor to William de Wilby, clerk, to hold for 16 years rent free and after that at a rent of £100 yearly.²⁶ Between 1359 and 1368 the manor passed to William Latimer²⁷ who died in 1381 and was succeeded by his daughter Elizabeth, who married John Lord Nevill.²⁸ He died seised of Wilby in 1388 and was succeeded by his son Ralph.²⁹ From the Nevills the manor passed to the Vaux, but how it was transferred cannot be traced. As early as 1405 William Vaux held the advowson of Wilby³⁰ and it is probable that he held the manor also. In 1462 William Vaux son of the former William³¹ forfeited the manor by reason of an act of attainder,³² and it was granted to Ralph Hastings; it was afterwards restored, and in 1525 Nicholas Vaux died seised of it.³³ Until 1624 Wilby Manor follows the same descent as Great

¹ Priv. & Loc. Act, 41 Geo. III, cap. 70.

² Bridges, *Northants.* ii, 156.

³ *V.C.H. Northants.* i, 312.

⁴ *Ibid.* ii, 570-1; *Feud. Aids*, iv, 16.

⁵ *Bk. of Fees*, 936.

⁶ *Ibid.* 938. See below.

⁷ *Plac. de Quo Warr.* (Rec. Com.), 516.

⁸ *Chan. Inq.* p.m. 2 Ric. II, no. 57.

⁹ *Ibid.* 12 Ric. II, no. 40.

¹⁰ *Curia Regis* R. iii, 100.

¹¹ Farrer, *Honors and Knights' Fees*, ii, 349.

¹³ *Ibid.*

¹² *Assize R.* 616, m. 11 d.

¹⁴ Farrer, loc. cit.

¹⁵ *Bk. of Fees*, 936, 938. He held half a fee in 1244: Farrer, loc. cit.

¹⁶ Feet of F. Northants. 4 John.

¹⁷ *Ibid.* 11 Hen. III.

¹⁸ *Rot. Rob. Grosseteste* (Cant. & York Soc.), 218.

¹⁹ *Plac. de Quo Warr.* (Rec. Com.), 516.

If 'Eudes' is not a mistake he must have been succeeded shortly by William.

²⁰ *Cal. Inq.* p.m. iii, 576.

²¹ *Assize R.* 633, m. 72.

²² *Ibid.*; *Plac. de Quo Warr.* (Rec. Com.), 516.

²³ *Cott. Ch.* xxvii, 73.

²⁴ Close, 33 Edw. III, m. 30 d.

²⁵ *Cott. Ch.* xxiii, 27.

²⁶ Close, 33 Edw. III, m. 30 d.

²⁷ *Chart. R.* 42 Edw. III, no. 9.

²⁸ *G.E.C. Complete Peerage* (1st ed.), v, 23.

²⁹ *Chan. Inq.* p.m. 12 Ric. II, no. 40.

³⁰ Bridges, *Northants.* ii, 155.

³¹ *G.E.C. Complete Peerage* (1st ed.), viii, 18.

³² *Cal. Pat.* 1461-67, p. 195.

³³ *Chan. Inq.* p.m. (Ser. 2), xli, 60.



WILBY CHURCH, FROM THE SOUTH-EAST

Doddington (q.v.); between 1624 and 1656 it was conveyed to the Pentlow family. In 1641 Thomas Pentlow, then a resident in Wilby, was arrested and committed to the Fleet.¹ At his death in 1656 he was lord of the manor.² He was succeeded by his son William Pentlow,³ who about 1706 alienated the manor to John Freeman,⁴ whose widow was lady of the manor in 1719. After the death of this lady the manor descended to her daughters,⁵ and in 1788 was in the possession of Hannah Freeman wife of William Pearson, who in the same year alienated a moiety of it to Anne Jerson, Abraham Bracebridge, and others.⁶ The whole of this manor subsequently passed to Adam Corrie, the holder in 1801.⁷ He was succeeded by John Corrie, whose successor at the present day is Arthur Corrie Keep.

Richard de Wilby had a mill in Wilby in 1245 by grant of Michael de Wilby and his wife Margaret.⁸ In 1276 Maud widow of William de Wilby claimed a mill in dower.⁹ No further mention has been found of a mill until 1702 when William Pentlow held a water-mill with the manor.¹⁰

The church of *ST. MARY THE CHURCH VIRGIN* consists of chancel, 23 ft. 6 in.

by 18 ft. 6 in., with north vestry and organ-chamber; clerestoried nave, 40 ft. 6 in. by 19 ft. 6 in.; south aisle, 9 ft. 6 in. wide; south porch and west tower with spire, 10 ft. 6 in. square, all these measurements being internal. There was formerly a north aisle, but it was removed in 1839 and has not been rebuilt.¹¹

No portion of the existing fabric appears to be older than the 13th century.¹² The church of this period seems to have been an aisleless building, of which little remains but a low-side window in the chancel and perhaps part of the wall above the arches of the south arcade. About 1310-20 the aisles were added, and the chancel seems to have been remodelled, or perhaps rebuilt. The tower was added later in the 14th century, and the clerestory appears to have been erected a century or more later, but the present wooden windows are of comparatively recent date. The chancel, which at some period had been reduced in length by about 12 ft.,¹³ was almost entirely rebuilt in 1853 on its then existing plan, with blank north wall, and the roof restored to its original pitch.¹⁴ A vestry and organ-chamber were added in 1873, but were rebuilt in their present form in 1913. When the north aisle was taken down, its arcade was removed and a new wall with modern windows built in its place. There was a general restoration of the fabric in 1879.

As rebuilt, the chancel contains little or no ancient work except the low-side window at the west end of the south wall, which is a plain lancet of two hollow chamfers separated by a flat member, with hood-mould and rear arch.¹⁵ A considerable amount of the old masonry appears to have been used in the external facings, but the three-light east window, and one of two

lights in the south wall, together with the priest's doorway and the piscina and sedilia are modern.¹⁶ The high-pitched roof is leaded. Originally the chancel was of two equal bays, but about two-thirds of the eastern bay was removed, with the result that the dividing buttress is now only about 6 ft. from the east end. The 14th-century chancel arch is of two hollow-chamfered orders without hood-mould, the inner order on half-round responds with moulded capitals and bases. There are remains of the rood-loft stair at the north end. Below the arch is a modern oak screen (1923). On the north side the chancel is open to the vestry and organ-chamber by an arcade of two arches erected in 1913.¹⁷

The early-14th-century nave arcade is of four bays with arches of two hollow-chamfered orders on octagonal piers with moulded capitals and bases and half-round responds carrying the inner order: they have hood-moulds on each side and each hollow has a rounded stop above the capital. The piers stand on square plinths of rough masonry, probably portions of the original outer wall through which the arches were cut.

The aisle has diagonal angle buttresses, plain parapet, and lean-to leaded roof, and there are strings at sill level within and without. The east window and two in the south wall east of the porch are of the 14th century, the former pointed and of three cinquefoiled lights with cusped intersecting tracery, and the latter square-headed of two trefoiled lights. A similar two-light window west of the porch is modern, and the west wall is blank. A trefoiled piscina with fluted bowl remains in the usual position at the east end of the aisle. The doorway is in the second bay from the west and is of two continuous hollow-chamfered orders with hood-mould: the outer doorway of the porch is of two rounded orders. The porch has diagonal buttresses and high-pitched gable with modern apex cross: in the west wall is a single pointed window and in the east wall a modern quatrefoil opening.

The clerestory windows occur on the south side only and are square-headed and of two uncusped lights: the low-pitched leaded roof is modern and without parapets. Internally all the walls are plastered.

The tower is faced with ashlar and is of unusual design, consisting of two square lower stages with moulded plinth and diagonal angle buttresses, an octagonal bell-chamber stage, or drum, the cardinal faces of which are in the same plane as the walls beneath, and a low stone spire rising from behind a parapet of pierced quatrefoils. The diagonal buttresses are carried up as pinnacles and from these pierced flying buttresses are thrown to the canted faces of the octagon, the angles of which are covered by flat buttresses carried up in their turn as pinnacles and connected to the spire by a second tier of flying buttresses. The junction of the square and octagonal stages is masked at the angles by a parapet of pierced quatrefoils, and the four bell-chamber windows

above the roof of the chancel and is filled with glass'.

¹⁵ *Assoc. Arch. Soc. Reports*, xxix, 456. The window is 3 ft. 4 in. high by 16 in. wide, and the sill is 2 ft. 8 in. above the floor. Internally the string-course which runs round the chancel is raised to form a hood-mould. The window was opened out and glazed in 1908.

¹⁶ They are in the style of the 14th century and may reproduce ancient features; the sedilia are double.

¹⁷ Designed by Mr. Temple Moore.

¹ *Hist. MSS. Com.* iv, 111.

² Monumental Inscription cited by Bridges, *Northants.* ii, 156.

³ Metcalfe, *Visit. Northants.* 125.

⁴ Bridges, *Northants.* ii, 155

⁵ *Ibid.*

⁶ Feet of F. Div. Co. Trin. 28 Geo. III.

⁷ Priv. and Loc. Act, 41 Geo. III, cap. 170.

⁸ Feet of F. Northants. 30 Hen. III.

⁹ De Banco R. Trin. 4 Edw. I, m. 13.

¹⁰ Recov. R. East. 1 Anne, r. 19.

¹¹ Bridges gives the width across the nave

and aisles as 43 ft. 9 in.: op. cit. ii, 155; the old north aisle was thus the same width as the south.

¹² R. and J. A. Brandon (*Parish Churches*, 88) record a voussour with chevron ornament as then (1848) built into the north wall of the chancel.

¹³ The chancel is shown of its present length in Brandon's plan of the church in 1848: *ibid.* 88.

¹⁴ Brandon in 1848 describes the roof as having been so much lowered that 'the upper part of the chancel arch now appears

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are of two cinquefoiled lights with a quatrefoil in the head. The two square lower stages are blank on the north and south, except for a small rectangular quatrefoiled window on the south side, and on the east, above the roof, is a pointed opening. There is a vice in the south-west angle. The arch to the nave is of two hollow-chamfered orders, the inner springing from half-octagonal responds with moulded capitals and chamfered bases.

The west doorway is a 15th-century insertion. It has a continuous moulded four-centred arch framed in a rectangular hood-mould, the spandrels being filled with quatrefoiled circles. Above it is an ogee-headed traceried¹ window of two cinquefoiled lights with crocketed hood-mould and finial, on either side of which, at sill level, is a canopied niche with tall straight-sided crocketed hood-moulds, finials, and rounded stops: the niches have image-brackets, but are unoccupied. The spire has plain angles and two tiers of gabled lights on the cardinal faces.

The font consists of a plain circular tapering bowl, on a rectangular stem with chamfered angles and square plinth, and is apparently of early-13th-century date.²

The 17th-century oak pulpit has three tiers of panels, the two lower arched, as at Doddington, but is octagonal on plan: it stands on a modern stone base.³

Below the tower arch is a modern screen, the top-rail of which is old work from Yaxley, Hunts.⁴ The royal arms of Queen Victoria are over the south doorway.

There were three bells till 1878, when a treble by Taylor of Loughborough was added and the tenor recast. The ring was increased to five in 1893 by the addition of another treble, also by Taylor. The old treble (now third) is by Henry Penn of Peterborough 1705, and the fourth by Matthew Bagley of Chacombe 1682. The old tenor bore the inscription: 'Sit nomen Domini Benedictum' and was from the Leicester foundry.⁵

The plate consists of a silver chalice and paten of 1853, a flagon of 1850, and an alms basin of 1857:⁶ there is also a plated bread-holder.

The registers before 1812 are contained in a single volume beginning in 1562, but there are gaps. The book consists of 'many separate parts which were before in several volumes'⁷ but were collected and bound in one volume in 1767 by Thomas Percy, rector. The entries of baptisms are continuous to 1650, of marriages

to 1635, and of burials to 1639, and all entries are complete from 1713 to 1812.

There are constables' accounts from 1627 to 1678.

In 1205 Robert son of Henry re-
ADVOWSON mitted his claim to the advowson of Wilby Church to John de Wileby,⁸ to whose heir the presentation belonged in 1219.⁹ Robert son of Richard of Northampton presented in 1243.¹⁰ In 1260 William son of Robert de Wileby recovered the advowson, apparently in right of his wife, against Geoffrey de Leukenore as guardian of the heir of Robert de Wileby, but the said heir was to have the patronage when he came of age;¹¹ and in 1276 John de Wileby sued William Fitz Warin for the right to present to the church.¹² In 1330 Henry de Maundeville and his wife Elizabeth, grand-daughter of William Fitz Warin, held this advowson;¹³ and in 1340 Robert de Wilby sued Richard de Maundeville for the next presentation.¹⁴ In 1403 the advowson had passed into the hands of William Vaux;¹⁵ but in 1427 Reynold, Lord Grey, then holding the honor of Huntingdon,¹⁶ was patron presumably during the minority of the younger William Vaux. From this date until 1621, when it was sold by Edward Vaux to Henry Neale of Northampton,¹⁷ the advowson followed the same descent as the manor. In the same year Valentine Lane presented and next year the Crown was patron. In 1626 it was held by Thomas Pentlow,¹⁸ and by 1640 it was held by Sir Christopher Yelverton¹⁹ from whom it descended to his grandson Talbot, the patron in 1712.²⁰ The advowson continued in this family²¹ until 1783 when it was transferred to Matthew Easton.²² Matthew Easton held the advowson as late as 1829; from him it passed to the Rev. William Stockdale,²³ father of the present patron, H. M. Stockdale, esq., D.L.

The living of Wilby is a rectory; in 1291 the annual value of the church was £8²⁴ and in 1535 the value of the rectory and tithes was £14 9s. 11d.²⁵

Church Land. About 2 acres let in **CHARITIES** allotments, the rent of which is applied by the rector and churchwardens for the repair or service of the church.

Poor's Land. About $\frac{1}{2}$ acre, the rent of which is applied by the rector and churchwardens in the distribution of bread among the resident poor, and is partly given or sent in money to poor persons belonging to, but not resident in, the parish.

The origin of the above-mentioned charities is unknown.

¹ The tracery and mullion are modern.

² The bowl was restored to use in 1878.

³ Two of the sides are open and form the entrance: there is no door.

⁴ The screen was designed by Mr. Temple Moore, c. 1912.

⁵ North, *Chs. Bells of Northants.* 448, where the inscriptions are given.

⁶ Markham, *Ch. Plate of Northants.* 318.

⁷ From inscription by Dr. Percy at beginning of the book: 'the several leaves were paged as far as p. 165 on Feb. 26, 1780, and all appearance of chasms and

leaves torn out was before that time.'

⁸ Feet of F. Northants. 7 John.

⁹ *Rot. Hug. de Welles* (Cant. & York Soc.), i, 139.

¹⁰ *Rot. Rob. Grosseteste* (Cant. & York Soc.), 218.

¹¹ *Rot. Ric. Gravesend* (Cant. & York Soc.), 100.

¹² De Banco R. Trin. 4 Edw. I, m. 13.

¹³ Cott. Ch. xxvii, 73.

¹⁴ *Pedigrees from Pleas Rolls*, 6. He claimed that Walter son of Robert de Wileby had given it to Peter son of

William Dru, his ancestor.

¹⁵ Bridges, *Northants.* ii, 155.

¹⁶ *Cal. of Papal Letters*, vii, 545.

¹⁷ Add. Chart. 4672.

¹⁸ Inst. Bks. (P.R.O.).

¹⁹ Bridges, *Northants.* ii, 155.

²⁰ *Recov. R. Hil.* 11 Anne, ro. 113.

²¹ G.E.C. *Complete Peerage* (1st ed.), iv, 107.

²² *Recov. R. Trin.* 22 Geo. III, ro. 157.

²³ *Clergy Lists*, 1829-60.

²⁴ *Pope Nich. Tax.* (Rec. Com.), 39.

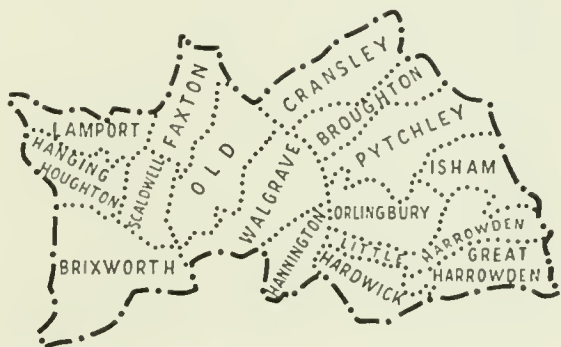
²⁵ *Valor Eccles.* (Rec. Com.), iv, 305.

THE HUNDRED OF ORLINGBURY

CONTAINING THE PARISHES OF

BRIXWORTH	HARDWICK	OLD <i>alias</i> WOLD
BROUGHTON	HARROWDEN, GREAT	ORLINGBURY
CRANSLEY	HARROWDEN, LITTLE	PYTCHLEY
FAXTON	ISHAM	SCALDWELL
HANNINGTON	LAMPOR	WALGRAVE

AT the time of the Domesday Survey these parishes were divided between two hundreds, the eastern portion, containing the parishes of Broughton, Cransley, Hannington, the Harrowdens, Orlingbury with the hamlet of Withmale, and Pytchley, being the Hundred of 'Ordinbaro'. The western half, containing Brixworth, Faxton, Lampport with the hamlet of Hanging Houghton, Old *alias* Wold, Scaldwell, and Walgrave, constituted the Hundred of 'Maleslea'. This latter hundred took its name from, and doubtless had its meeting-place at, Mawsley in Faxton, described by Bridges as 'a hamlet of one or two cottages and a wood'.¹ The two hundreds were united before the middle of the 13th century, occurring in 1246 and 1252 as the Hundred of Orlingbury and Malesle,² but from 1275³ onwards the name of Mawsley is omitted.



ORLINGBURY

MAP OF THE HUNDRED

In 1329 it was reported that the ancient farm of the hundred had been 4 marks until John de Aston when he was sheriff raised it to 8 marks 'to the impoverishment of the people'.⁴ This statement appears to be inaccurate, as John de Aston was sheriff in 1303, and again in 1316, but in 1252 the value of the hundred was returned as 8 marks.⁵ Six years earlier it had been 6 marks.⁶

The hundred was still in the hands of the Crown when Bridges wrote, but later in the 18th century was acquired by the family of Young who held Orlingbury Manor.⁷

¹ *Hist. of Northants.* ii, 96. Thomas de Lodinton had licence to inclose 5 acres in 'Malislewode', within the metes of the forest of Rockingham, in 1291: *Cal. Pat.* 1281-92, p. 488.

² Assize R. 614, m. 41; *ibid.* 615, m. 5.

³ *Rot. Hundr.* (Rec. Com.), ii, 12.

⁴ Assize R. 632, m. 26 d.

⁵ *Ibid.* 615, m. 5 d. In 1264 the fixed receipts accounted for by the sheriff were worth £6 6s. 0d.: L.T.R. Misc. file 5, no. 5.

⁶ *Ibid.* 614, m. 41.

⁷ Court Rolls in the possession of the family: *ex inf.* Miss Joan Wake.

BRIXWORTH

Briclesworde (xi cent.); Bricklesuurtha, Brichteswrde, Briglesword (xii cent.); Bryhtesworth, Brikelesworth (xiii cent.); Bryxworth *al.* Bryckelsworth (xvi cent.).

The parish of Brixworth covers an area of 3,148 acres, and rises to a little over 400 ft. above the ordnance datum. The soil is mainly Northamptonshire sandstone, with ironstone and a little clay; the subsoil is ironstone. Iron ore is quarried extensively in the parish and there is a brick and tile works situated on the southern border. The chief crops produced are wheat and barley, and much of the land is given to pasture. There are several natural springs in the parish. The village is situated on the main road from Northampton to Market Harborough, and about a mile to the west is a station for the Northampton and Market Harborough branch of the L.M.S. railway which passes through the parish. Brixworth is the head of a rural district and in 1931 had a population of 1,173.

Brixworth Hall¹ stands almost in the centre of the village in extensive grounds, and is a fair-sized building of three stories above a lofty ground floor, probably erected towards the end of the 18th century, but incorporating parts of an older house. The main, or south, front has a centrally placed doorway with semi-circular head beneath an entablature, three square-headed windows on each side, and seven windows in the upper stories; there is a projection at each end, set well back. The building is constructed of yellow sandstone with dressings of white Weldon stone,² and finishes with a cornice and plain parapet, hiding the leaded roof. The portions of the building at the back have high-pitched roofs, and on the west side there remains a two-light mullioned window, now blocked.³ On the north-west are hunting-stables and outbuildings, and to the north-east, overlooking the lawn, an orangery.⁴ The Hall, at present unoccupied, was for some time the headquarters of the Pytchley Hunt Club, and the kennels of the Hunt are still in the village. It is the property of W. T. Vere Wood, esq., who lives at The Manor House, which stands on the east side of the village⁵ and is a modernized 17th-century two-story gabled building with low mullioned windows.

The plan of the village is unusual, the older houses being grouped round, and largely to the south of, the roughly circular enclosure formed by the Hall and its grounds, and the church lying on the extreme northern edge of the village.⁶

The cross stands in the middle of the north part of the village, south of the church, on a calvary of four octagonal steps. The stump only of the original shaft remains, about 2 ft. high, set in a rectangular socket, on each face of which are angular incised lines, and on

the north side the date 1727, in commemoration of the accession of George II.⁷

In the village are a fair number of 17th- and early-18th-century stone-built houses, mostly undated, but one bears the date 1696, and two others 1727 and 1740 respectively.

The Methodist chapel, a brick building erected in 1811, was enlarged in 1860.

At the time of the Domesday Survey the *MANOR* king possessed 9½ hides in *BRIXWORTH*, which had in Edward the Confessor's time been ancient demesne, and worth £30. There were two mills rendering 33s. 4d.; a wood pertaining to the manor which used to render 100s. yearly was then in the king's forest.⁸ The land did not remain crown demesne for long, for at the time of the Northamptonshire survey (12th cent.) Simon son of Simon held 8½ hides in Brixworth of the fee of Curcy and Alfred held one hide and one virgate of the fee of Salisbury.⁹ In the *carta* of William de Curcy made in 1166 Simon son of Peter (of Brixworth)¹⁰ is noted as holding 8½ fees, and his son, the above-named Simon, 4 fees in the right of his wife who is described as the daughter of Roger de Fresnoy.¹¹ William de Curcy's heir William¹² came of age in 1186, but died without heirs and the overlordship of Brixworth passed to Margaret, daughter and coheir of Warin fitz Gerold by Alice, sister and coheir of William de Curcy. She married Baldwin de Rivers, heir of William Earl of Devon, and on his death in 1216 was compelled to marry Faukes de Breauté who held 10½ carucates in Brixworth in 1220.¹³ In 1235-6 and 1242-3 Lady Margaret de Rivers held 2½ fees in Brixworth.¹⁴ She died in 1252 and the land passed to her grandson Baldwin de Rivers, Earl of Devon, Lord of the Isle of Wight. On his death in 1262 the 3 fees he held in Brixworth were assigned to his widow Margaret in dower. Her title was disputed by Isabel, Countess of Aumâle and Devon, sister and heir of Baldwin, but a decision was given in Margaret's favour in 1266.¹⁵ She died in 1292, her lands passing to Isabel, who died the next year. Robert de l'Isle, one of the heirs of Isabel, held the overlordship of the manor as part of the honor of Aumâle, in 1315.¹⁶ The honor was transferred to the Crown by Robert de l'Isle in 1368, and subsequently granted to John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster, in 1373, Brixworth thus becoming a part of the Duchy of Lancaster.

Simon son of Simon, who held 4 fees of the honor of Curcy in 1166, was succeeded by his son Simon, who joined the barons against King John in 1215. In November of that year his lands in Brixworth were committed to Roland Bloet,¹⁷ but were later given to his wife, Beatrice of Brixworth.¹⁸ She also had a grant

¹ There is a drawing from the south-west in Neale's *Views of Seats* (1820), vol. iii.

² All the windows except those in the basement have architraves, and sills supported by brackets. The sash windows retain their divisional bars.

³ On the north side of the eastern projection is a piece of moulded string-course belonging to the older house. A low wing on the west appears to have been erected by Sir Edward Nicholls in 1707; it bears a stone with that date and his partly

obliterated initials.

⁴ The lawn appears to have been the original bowling-green. The orangery is of five bays with round-headed windows and doorway: it is built of Kingsthorpe stone: Markham, in *The Reminder* (Northants. N. & Q.), Nov. 1927.

⁵ On the east side of the old turnpike road from Northampton to Market Harborough: *Assoc. Arch. Soc. Repts.* xxvi, 441.

⁶ See plan (1846) and notes by the Rev. A. K. Pavey in *Assoc. Arch. Soc. Repts.* xxvi, 441-7.

⁷ Markham in *Assoc. Arch. Soc. Repts.* xxiii, 166.

⁸ *V.C.H. Northants.* i, 306.

⁹ *Ibid.* p. 381.

¹⁰ Bridges, *Hist. Northants.* i, 453, 501.

¹¹ *Red Book* (Rolls Ser.), i, 224.

¹² *Pipe R.* 33 *Hen. II* (Pipe R. Soc.), p. 161.

¹³ *Bk. of Fees*, i, 326.

¹⁴ *Ibid.* p. 497; ii, 931.

¹⁵ *Abbrev. Plac.* (Rec. Com.), 160.

¹⁶ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* v, no. 596.

¹⁷ *R. Lit. Claus.* (Rec. Com.), i, 236.

¹⁸ *Ibid.* p. 282.

of an aid to be levied from those of Simon's knights and free tenants who had aided the rebels, to acquit him of the fine made for his redemption.¹ In 1235-6 and 1242-3 Simon son of Simon, probably the son of the rebel, held 2½ fees in Brixworth.² In 1253 he had a grant of a weekly market to be held at Brixworth on Tuesdays, and a yearly fair there from 4 to 6 June.³ He is described as lord of Brixworth in 1262-3, his wife's name being given as Maud de Ralee.⁴ Simon supported the barons in their struggle against the Crown, and was captured at the battle of Northampton, his manor being committed to Henry de Boruhull on 21 April 1264.⁵ He received a safe conduct to go to court in August, 1265, and was finally pardoned in 1267.⁶ In 1276 Simon son of Simon had view of frankpledge, free warren, free fishery, and other liberties in Brixworth.⁷ He died early in 1280, apparently without male issue, as he was succeeded by his nephew, John de Verdun, kt.,⁸ who in 1284 was holding 2½ fees in Brixworth.⁹ He died in 1295,¹⁰ and his son Thomas, by his wife Eleanor daughter of Sir Thomas de Furnivall, being a minor, the custody of Brixworth was granted to John de Ferrers.¹¹ Thomas proved his age in 1297, showing that he was born at Whiston by Handsworth, Yorks,¹² and received seisin of his lands. In February 1301 he received a licence to erect a gallows in his manor of Brixworth on proving that those used by his ancestor, Simon le Voyde, had fallen down through decay.¹³ In 1306 his lands were ordered to be seized because he had withdrawn from the king's service without licence, before the end of the war in Scotland.¹⁴ He died in 1315 holding the manor of Robert de l'Isle, as of the honor of Aumale, for two knights' fees. There was a windmill and a water-mill there at this time, and two rents were due from the manor: one of 40s. to the Prior of St. Andrews, Northampton, and the other of 20s. to William de Seymour of Harrington, for his life.¹⁵ The former rent was still being paid in 1535.¹⁶ Thomas de Verdun was succeeded by his son John, then aged 16 or 17, who was returned as lord of the manor in 1316,¹⁷ and defended his right to view of frankpledge, free warren, market, fair, and other liberties in Brixworth in 1329.¹⁸ He also claimed exemption from suit at the hundred and county courts.

Sir John de Verdun appears to have died some time after 1370, being succeeded by his son Edmund, whose daughter and heir Margaret married first Sir William Bradshaw, and secondly Sir John Pilkington.¹⁹ She survived her second husband and died in 1436 holding the manor of Brixworth of the duchy of Lancaster. She was succeeded by her grand-daughter Elizabeth, wife of Sir Richard Harrington, of Westerley, Lanes., and daughter of Sir William Bradshaw, her son by her first marriage.²⁰ By 1461 their son Sir

William Harrington and Elizabeth his wife were in possession of the manor,²¹ and they in turn were succeeded some time before 1492 by their son Sir James Harrington.²² Sir James died on 26 June 1497 leaving the manor to his wife Isabel during her lifetime,²³ with remainder equally among their daughters: Anne wife of Sir William Stanley, Isabel wife of John Tresham, Joan wife of Edmund Ashton, Catherine wife of William Myrfield, Agnes wife of Thomas Ashton, Elizabeth wife of John Lumley, Clemence wife of Henry Norrys, Alice wife of Ralph Standish, Margaret wife of Thomas Pilkington, and Eleanor Leicester. Isabel Harrington of Wolfage and Brixworth received a general pardon in 1509.²⁴ This appears to be the first reference to *WOLFAGE* Manor, which was probably a part of Brixworth Manor. Isabel died on 20 June 1518,²⁵ and the manor was divided. Of her daughters each of the following seems to have had possession of a fifth share of the manor within a few years of her mother's death: Alice Standish, (the heir of) Elizabeth Lumley, Eleanor Leicester, Agnes Ashton, and Joan Ashton.

On 27 October 1539 Alice Standish demised her share of the manor to Anthony Laton and his wife, her daughter Agnes, for an annual rent to be applied to the payment of her husband's debts and those of her son Alexander. On her death in January 1542 the debts were still unpaid, but her share of the manor passed to her grandson Ralph Standish, son of Alexander, who was then eleven years old.²⁶ By 1604 Alexander Standish, the heir of Ralph, had obtained possession of two shares which seem to have comprised Wolfage Manor.²⁷ The second share may have come into the family from Sir Edward Montagu to whom Joan Ashton, then remarried to Robert Burdon, had conveyed her share in 1540.²⁸ Ralph Standish had succeeded his father by 1617²⁹ and from him the land passed to Edward Standish, who sold the manor of Brixworth *alias* Wolfage to Simon Finch in 1671.³⁰ The Finch family retained these two-fifths for fifty years.

Sir Ralph Leicester, the heir of Eleanor, was seised of one-fifth of the manor of Brixworth at the time of his death in February 1572. He was succeeded by his son William, who was at that time 34 years old.³¹ By 1594 his heir George Leicester was in possession of the manor,³² but the next year he sold it to Thomas Garway,³³ by whom it was resold to Michael Wright in 1611.³⁴ On his death in January 1638, at the age of 52,³⁵ Michael Wright was succeeded by his son John, who was born in 1611. By his first wife Susanna, who died in 1648,³⁶ John Wright had a son Michael who probably succeeded him on his death in September 1680.³⁷ By 1720 his descendant Edward Wright had possession of the manor.³⁸

¹ *R. Lit. Claus* (Rec. Com.), p. 287;
R. Lit. Pat. (Rec. Com.), 190.

² *Bk. of Fees*, i, 497; ii, 931.

³ *Cal. Chart.*, i, 416.

⁴ *Rot. Ricardi Gravesend* (Cant. and York Soc.), p. 102.

⁵ *Cal. Pat.*, 1258-66, p. 315.

⁶ *Ibid.* p. 440; *ibid.* 1266-72, p. 158.

⁷ *Rot. Hundr.* (Rec. Com.), ii, 2, 7, 12,

13.

⁸ *Cal. Close*, 1279-88, p. 50.

⁹ *Feud. Aids*, iv, 2.

¹⁰ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* iii, no. 298.

¹¹ *Cal. Pat.*, 1292-1301, p. 134.

¹² *Cal. Inq. p.m.* iii, no. 437.

¹³ *Cal. Pat.*, 1292-1301, p. 580.

¹⁴ *Cal. Fine R.*, i, 543-4.

¹⁵ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* v, no. 596.

¹⁶ *Palat. Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), iv, 313.

¹⁷ *Feud. Aids*, iv, 21.

¹⁸ *Plac. de Quo War.* (Rec. Com.),

512-3.

¹⁹ *Wrottesley, Pedigrees from the Plea Rolls*, p. 195.

²⁰ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 15 Hen. VI, no. 61.

²¹ *Feet of F. Northants.* 39 Hen. VI, no. 150.

²² *Cal. Inq. Hen. VII*, i, no. 796.

²³ *Ibid.* no. 1178.

²⁴ *L. and P. Hen. VIII*, i, 438 (3 m. 30).

²⁵ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), lxxiii, 105.

²⁶ *Ibid.* lxxvi, 40.

²⁷ *Feet of F. Northants.* Hil. 1 Jas. I.

²⁸ *Com. Pleas Deeds Enr. Mich.* 32 Hen. VIII, m. 7 d.

²⁹ *Feet of F. Northants.* Hil. 15 Jas. I.

³⁰ *Ibid.* Hil. 22 & 23 Chas. II.

³¹ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), clxxiii, 31.

³² *Feet of F. Northants.* East. 36 Eliz.

³³ *Ibid.* Mich. 37 & 38 Eliz.

³⁴ *Ibid.* East. 9 Jas. I.

³⁵ *Bridges, Hist. Northants.*, ii, 83.

³⁶ *Ibid.* 84.

³⁷ *Ibid.*

³⁸ *Ibid.* 82.

A HISTORY OF NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

Elizabeth Lumley, the fifth daughter, predeceased her mother, and her son John had conveyed his rights to his son Henry by the time of Isabel Harrington's death.¹ Henry Lumley was born about 1500 and by 1532 had conveyed his fifth share to William Saunders of Welford.² The latter, dying in February 1541, left his manor of Brixworth to his wife Dorothy for her lifetime, with remainder successively to his sons Francis, Thomas, George, Saul, and Clement.³ In February 1542 Dorothy was granted an annuity of £10 from the manor during the minority of Clement, the eldest son and heir of William Saunders, together with his wardship and marriage.⁴ On her death the manor passed to Francis, the second son, who was in possession of it in 1567.⁵ By his second wife, Eleanor Challoner, Francis Saunders had two sons, Edward, born in 1556, and William. On the marriage of Edward to Millicent daughter of John Temple in 1583 Francis settled the manor of Brixworth on him. Francis died in June 1585.⁶ Edward Saunders died in September 1630,⁷ leaving a son Edward who had been born in 1588. On the death of this Edward the manor passed to his son Edward,⁸ and from him to Francis Saunders, after whose death, early in the 18th century, it was sold to Sir Justinian Isham, bart., of Lampport. It seems probable that the fifth share of the manor which was inherited by James Ashton, the heir of Agnes wife of Thomas Ashton, came into the possession of Francis Saunders about 1560 or 1570, and was held by the Saunders family jointly with the share purchased from Henry Lumley.⁹

About 1720 John Bridges writes of the manor: 'Two-fifths of the lordship, comprizing the manor of Wolphage, are now in the hands of Mr. Finch of Hertfordshire: two-fifths in Sir Justinian Isham, bart. by purchase from the family of Saunders; and the other fifth, in course of descent from Michael Wright, in Edward Wright of Oakham, Esq. The three manors are held jointly and the court kept at the cross; the profits of the court-leet, court baron, amercements, and stallage for the fair being proportionally divided. Waifs and strays belong to him whose third-borrow seizes them.'¹⁰

The manor has never since been reunited. The descendants of Sir Justinian Isham now hold the share he purchased, but the other two changed hands several times in the 18th century. In 1753 John Hollis was in possession of one-fifth of the manor,¹¹ in 1775 Matthew Combe,¹² and in 1786 Nicolls Raynsford.¹³ John Elderton owned two-fifths in 1773.¹⁴ In 1854

the three shares were held by Sir Charles Isham, bart., William Wood, and Mrs. Locock,¹⁵ and by 1890 Lord Wantage had possession of the lands of the Locock family in the parish.¹⁶ By 1920 there were only two lords of the manor, Mr. W. T. Vere Wayne Wood and Sir Vere Isham, bart., the present holders.

Simon son of Simon gave to the Abbey of Delapré the service of the heirs of Simon son of Hugh the Miller of Brixworth and the rent which they paid for 'Kyngsmulne'.¹⁷ A reference to 'Kingsmilne' also occurs in a 13th-century deed,¹⁸ and this may be the site of the water-mill attached to the Saunders manor in 1670.¹⁹

The church of *ALL SAINTS* stands *CHURCH* on high ground²⁰ on the north side of the village, and in its present state consists of a clerestoried nave of four bays, 60 ft.²¹ by 30 ft., originally aisled; a quire, or presbytery, of two bays, 30 ft. square, with a south chapel, 34 ft. by 13 ft. 6 in.; an apse, 19 ft. 3 in. by 17 ft. 11 in., polygonal externally but internally semicircular, surrounded below the ground-level by a sunken ambulatory, 7 ft. 6 in. wide; and a western tower, 12 ft. 4 in. by 14 ft. 9 in.,²² to which is attached on the west side a large stair-turret of semicircular form. The quire, or presbytery, is interposed between the nave (of which it is a prolongation) and apse, and the tower is surmounted by a stone spire, 147 ft. high.²³

Its early date and the many important architectural problems connected with the church have made it one of the most frequently noticed buildings in the kingdom, and it has not unjustly been described as forming on the whole 'the most instructive monument in the early history of our national architecture'.²⁴ The church was restored and greatly altered in 1864-6, a square-ended chancel, which measured internally 27 ft. 6 in. by 19 ft. 2 in. and was apparently of 15th-century date, being then removed,²⁵ and the apse rebuilt in its present form; the south chapel was at the same time shortened by a bay at its west end, and a south porch near the west end of the nave was taken down.²⁶ The roof of the nave, the south chapel, and the tower, spire, and stair-turret were repaired in 1900-5. All the roofs are modern.

Briefly stated the building is a large basilican church of the 7th century, with modifications in later Saxon and medieval times. The main fabric is now generally accepted as all that remains of the church of a monastic settlement established at Brixworth, c. 680, by the monks of Peterborough, which was no doubt at the same time a parish church.²⁷ The buildings of the

¹ Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), xxxiii, 105.

² Recov. R. Hil. 23 Hen. VIII, ro. 528.

³ Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), lxiii, 24.

⁴ *L. and P. Hen. VIII*, xvii, g. 137 (15).

⁵ Feet of F. Northants. Hil. 9 Eliz.

⁶ Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), ccxi, 193.

⁷ Bridges, *Hist. Northants.* ii, 83.

⁸ Feet of F. Northants. Mich. 9 Will. and Mary.

⁹ *Ibid.* East. 23 Hen. VIII; Chan. Proc. (Ser. 2), 5, no. 79.

¹⁰ Bridges, *Hist. Northants.* ii, 82.

¹¹ Recov. R. Hil. 26 Geo. II, ro. 302.

¹² *Ibid.* 18 Geo. III, ro. 230.

¹³ Feet of F. Northants. Mich. 27 Geo. III.

¹⁴ Recov. R. Trin. 13 Geo. III, ro. 29.

¹⁵ *P.O. Directory*, 1854.

¹⁶ Kelly, *Directory of Northants.* 1890.

¹⁷ Chart. R. 2 Edw. III, m. 15, no. 47.

¹⁸ Anct. D. (P.R.O.), A 5025.

¹⁹ Recov. R. Mich. 22 Chas. II, ro. 33.

²⁰ The ground on which the church stands falls from north to south, and is at the brow of a high tableland overlooking a valley through which one of the tributaries of the Nene runs southward. The site is 411 ft. above sea-level: *Assoc. Arch. Soc. Repts.* xx, 344.

²¹ The nave is 60 ft. 5 in. on the north side and 59 ft. 4 in. on the south, the west wall being set askew to the north and south walls: *ibid.* 345.

²² The greater length is from north to south. All the above measurements are internal. There is a set of measured drawings of the church by E. Roberts, 1863, in the *Spring Gardens Sketch Book* (six plates).

²³ Height to top of spire from ground: to top of vane, 153 ft. Measurements by E. Roberts, 1863.

²⁴ G. Baldwin Brown, *Arts in Early Engl.* (1903) i, 65.

²⁵ The medieval chancel had a 15th-century east window of three lights and one of two lights on the north side, with a smaller two-light window near the west end in the older part of the wall at a lower level. On the south side was a doorway and two square-headed windows, each of two trefoiled lights, and near the west end a square-headed two-light low-side window. Details of the two low-side windows are given in *Assoc. Arch. Soc. Repts.* xxix, 392. That in the old wall on the north side was removed when the new apse was built, but its position can still be traced.

²⁶ Other work done during the restoration is noted below.

²⁷ G. Baldwin Brown, *Arts in Early Engl.* (1925) ii, 105, 113.



BRIXWORTH CHURCH, FROM THE NORTH-WEST



BRIXWORTH CHURCH, BEFORE RESTORATION, SHOWING THE MEDIEVAL CHANCEL
 (From a drawing by G. Clarke, *c.* 1820)

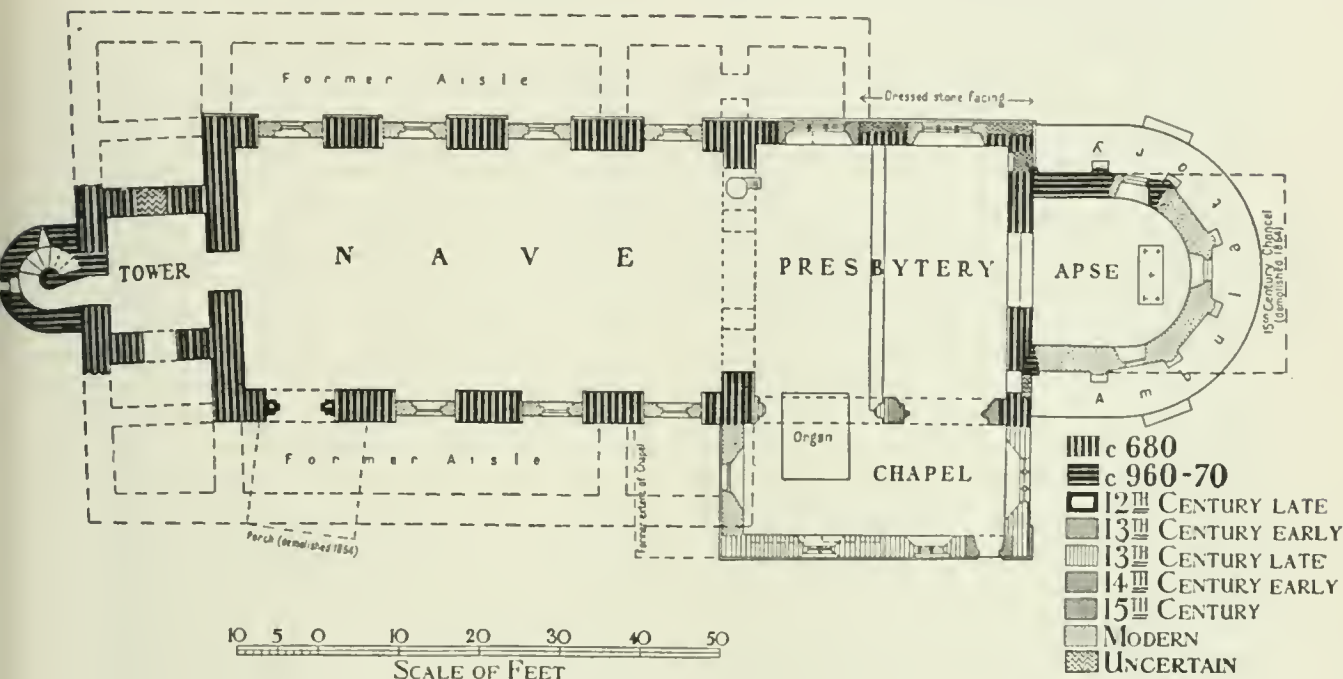


BRIXWORTH CHURCH: THE SOUTH SIDE

monastery were probably destroyed by the Danes during the invasion of 870 and the church dismantled, but the masonry of a great part of the present fabric may confidently be ascribed to a date earlier than the Danish conquest. Its reconstruction as a parish church in Saxon times probably took place c. 960-70 under the revival in the reign of King Edgar, at which period the apse appears to have been reconstructed and the side aisles removed.¹ There may have been a second repair shortly before or after the Norman Conquest.²

The nave, presbytery, and the lower part of the

walls, separated by rectangular piers, or masses of wall, each about 8 ft. in length,³ and with rectangular responds at the ends. The imposts of the arches rise slightly in height from west to east,⁶ and each arch is of two rings, or rows of voussoirs, in the same plane with each other and with the wall surface of the piers. These rings are very largely composed of Roman bricks⁷ set edgewise, separated by flat courses of bricks concentric with the curve of the arch, and with a second circumscribing course in place of a hood-mould, but thin slabs of local oolite have also been freely used in a manner which suggests a reconstruction of the arches



PLAN OF BRIXWORTH CHURCH

tower are substantially of the earliest period (c. 680), but the church was originally entered through a western porch, which had an upper chamber with gabled roof. Upon this porch, which was flanked on each side by a small chamber,³ the tower was afterwards raised.

The walls of the nave are of rubble stonework, with which is mingled a large number of thin bricks, evidently re-used from the ruins of Romano-British buildings near the site,⁴ employed chiefly in the arches, and here and there in the walls, more especially at the angles. The nave opened into the aisles through an arcade of four semicircular arches in each of the side

after the period of ruin, in which new stonework was used when the supply of bricks failed.⁸ The imposts are formed of three courses of oversailing bricks, with a total projection of about 4 in. The manner in which the arches are turned possibly indicates that the principle of the radiating joint was not understood by the builder,⁹ but the bad setting of the springers may have been intentional.¹⁰ Above the arches¹¹ the wall on each side is reduced in thickness, being set back both inside and out, and there is an internal set-off at a somewhat higher level in the west wall. The clerestory has three original round-headed windows on each side of a type uncommon in this country,¹² placed over the piers and

¹ Baldwin Brown ascribes the removal of the aisles to this period: *op. cit.* ii, 113. Prof. Hamilton Thompson thinks that the aisles may have survived until the present south doorway was made, c. 1180, or even till the end of the 13th century, when the south chapel was completed: *Arch. Jour.* lxi, 506.

² *Arch. Jour.* lxi, 505: 'there is considerable evidence for repair and partial reconstruction at two separate times.'

³ The foundations of these have been uncovered.

⁴ A Roman settlement of some kind at Brixworth is attested by numerous finds: *V.C.H. Northants.* i, 194; Baldwin Brown, *op. cit.* ii, 107. The claim that

the church was originally a Roman secular basilica is now generally abandoned.

⁵ The piers are 3 ft. 10 in. thick, but vary in length from 7 ft. 10 in. to 8 ft. 10 in., though mostly 8 ft. 2 in.: *Assoc. Arch. Soc. Rpts.* xx, 345.

⁶ On the south side 7½ in.: on the north side 10½ in.: *ibid.*

⁷ The bricks are from 10 in. to 16 in. long, about 11 in. wide, and about 1½ in. thick.

⁸ Prof. Hamilton Thompson in *Arch. Jour.* lxi, 505.

⁹ Baldwin Brown, *op. cit.* ii, 107. The lowest voussoirs are tilted against each other with approximately straight joints and wedges of rubble and mortar are in-

serted above the pier at the normal springing point: *ibid.*

¹⁰ There are several instances in Italian late Roman work of kicking up the springers of an arch in a similar manner. The adoption of this method at Brixworth may thus be an indication that the builders were closely copying late Roman methods: note by Mr. A. W. Clapham, F.S.A.

¹¹ The clear openings of the arches range from 6 ft. 7½ in. to 7 ft. 7½ in. in width. The height to the impost from the floor varies from 10 ft. 4 in. at the west end to 11 ft. 5½ in. at the east: Sir H. Dryden in *Assoc. Arch. Soc. Rpts.* xx, 345.

¹² Baldwin Brown, *op. cit.* ii, 108.

cut nearly straight¹ through the wall: their arches are again largely built of brick.²

When the aisles were removed the nave arches were filled in and a doorway and windows inserted, but, with the exception of that in which the south doorway is built, the old fillings (with later gothic windows) were taken out at the time of the restoration, and new masonry inserted, containing wide round-headed windows.³

The doorway dates from c. 1180 and has a semi-circular arch of two moulded orders, the inner continuous and the outer on jamb-shafts with moulded capitals and bases. The doorway being too wide for the space in which it is set, the wall on the west side has been cut into to admit it;⁴ until 1864 it was covered by a later porch, set at an oblique angle in line with the principal entrance to the churchyard on the south side.

Excavations on both sides of the building during the restoration disclosed the foundations of the aisle walls, showing the aisles to have been 9 ft. wide internally with a square chamber at the west end of each, flanking the porch, and probably one at the east end on the north side. From more recent excavations it appears that transverse walls originally extended across the north aisle from each of the piers,⁵ but no such features have been found on the south side.

The nave is now divided from the presbytery by a wide and very flat arch of two chamfered orders dying into the wall, which appears to be of late-14th-century date, but originally, as was proved by excavation in 1841,⁶ there was here a screen or arcade of three arches, the middle one wider than the others, which were supported on two intermediate piers and by the piers, or responds, which still exist as projections from the north and south walls.⁷

The north wall of the presbytery has two large pointed three-light windows. That to the east was entirely reconstructed in 1863, but the western window is of the early 14th century,⁸ and its sill cuts into the brick arch of an original round-headed doorway, now blocked, which led either into the open or to a sacristy or similar building.⁹ Whether there was also a chamber in the corresponding position on the south side cannot be known, the presbytery being here covered by the

medieval chapel and the lower part of its wall pierced by two pointed arches. Of these the easternmost is the narrower, and is of three chamfered orders and hood-mould towards the presbytery, but of two orders only to the chapel, the inner order springing from keel-shaped responds with moulded capitals and bases: it belongs to the earlier part of the 13th century, when the chapel seems first to have been built or reconstructed,¹⁰ but in its completed and enlarged form the chapel dates from c. 1290, when the westernmost arch, which is lower and wider¹¹ than the other and has octagonal responds, was constructed, and the outer walls rebuilt. The east window of the chapel is of three lights with plain intersecting tracery and the others are of two lights with forked mullions. Above the arches the old wall remains, with the blocked arch and upper portion of a large round-headed window, which was splayed internally.¹² Over the westernmost pointed arch is a contemporary single-light clerestory window with trefoiled head. The chapel, as already stated, formerly extended farther westward, and its existing west wall is modern. In the south wall is a small doorway, with plain four-centered arch, inserted in the 15th century, the west jamb of which cuts into a pointed piscina recess.

The tall semicircular chancel arch, or arch of triumph, in the middle of the east wall of the presbytery, is probably in great part original,¹³ being similar in construction to those of the nave arcades, but with only one course (the outer) of flatways bricks. On either side of it, high in the wall, is a blocked round-headed window, resembling those in the clerestory, and under these and partly below the present level of the floor are two narrow blocked doorways, with round heads, through each of which passed a flight of steps¹⁴ giving access to the sunken ambulatory of the apse. In the southern portion of the wall above the doorway and below the window is a pointed recess, the back wall of which retains some of its plaster, with traces of colour. Between this and the chancel arch is the north jamb of an earlier recess, probably of the 13th century.¹⁵

The present apse, the floor of which is three steps above that of the presbytery, with the exception of the north-west part, is modern. In 1841 excavations within

¹ Ibid.: 'the aperture is wider in the interior than it is outside, but the splay is nothing approaching to that which is seen in the ordinary internally splayed lights of late Saxon and Norman times, while the actual width of the external aperture, which measures about 3 ft. in the clear, is much greater than we generally find in our Saxon buildings. . . . They resemble the windows of the Early Christian basilicas of Rome and Ravenna in their openness and ample dimensions.'

² The windows, formerly blocked, were opened out at the time of the restoration. A wide pointed and chamfered relieving arch was inserted, probably in the 14th century, between two bays of the clerestory in the inner face of the south wall, probably in consequence of the weakening of the wall by the insertion of a large window below (since removed) in the second bay of the nave from the west: *Arch. Jour.* lxi, 505.

³ Before the restoration in 1864-6 three of the arches on the north side had windows 'each differing from the others', for one of which the original arch had nearly been destroyed. On the south side the easternmost arch opened to the chapel,

but the next two had windows each of three lights but different in style, one of which had occasioned the destruction of the original arch and the other had injured the arch over it: *Assoc. Arch. Soc. Rpts.* xx, 346. The arches were restored with different material in order to distinguish them, but this is not indicated on the accompanying plan.

⁴ The Rev. C. F. Watkins (vicar 1832-73) thought the doorway had been brought from the east end of the church. His account in *The Basilica* (1867) is not clear but appears to mean that he found traces of a Norman chapel preceding the existing 13th-century chapel on the south side in which this doorway may have been: *Assoc. Arch. Soc. Rpts.* xx, 346.

⁵ 'It may have been intended to build transverse arches across the aisle, for which sleeper walls were prepared, but there is no indication of any such arches or of any transverse partitions above the foundations': *Arch. Jour.* lxi, 506.

⁶ The transverse sleeper wall was discovered, as well as the bases of the piers, which appear to have been thick pieces of wall like the piers of the nave: *Arch. Jour.* lxi, 506.

⁷ Baldwin Brown, op. cit. ii, 110.

⁸ It is said to have been on the south side of the nave until 1863.

⁹ Baldwin Brown, op. cit. ii, 110. The doorway is 3 ft. wide, and is just on the eastern side of the projecting pier, or jamb, of the dividing arch.

¹⁰ A portion of the base course of the east wall suggests that the chapel was formed by the enlargement of a 12th-century addition to the church on this side: *Arch. Jour.* lxi, 507.

¹¹ Its width is 14 ft.; that of the easternmost arch is 8 ft. 10 in.

¹² *Arch. Jour.* lxi, 506.

¹³ It is 10 ft. wide and springs at a height of 16 ft. 4 in. above the presbytery floor. The jambs had been mutilated for the insertion of a screen, but are now rebuilt: Sir Henry Dryden, 'On the chancel of Brixworth Church', in *Assoc. Arch. Soc. Rpts.* xx, 348 (1890).

¹⁴ The arches spring at a height of about 1 ft. 10 in. above the present floor level; the steps must therefore have begun 5 ft. or more in the presbytery: *ibid.* 350.

¹⁵ *Arch. Jour.* lxi, 507. Its south jamb was destroyed when the later recess was made.

its area disclosed the inner face of the foundations of the original apse and its plan was determined.¹ In the restoration of 1864-6 the present polygonal apse was built on the lines suggested by the old masonry that remained. It is semicircular within but consists externally of seven sides of a dodecagon² elongated from east to west, the angles of which are covered by pilaster buttresses³ whose outer faces follow the plan of the contiguous bays, while their heads in the original apse were united by a continuous surface arcade, the springing of which can be traced at the north-west corner.⁴ One original round-headed window⁵ has survived in the north-west bay, together with one buttress and part of another. There is reason to believe⁶ that the apse was rebuilt, probably in the 10th century, upon the site or foundations of an original 7th-century apse, the plan of which (polygonal without and circular within) it preserved,⁷ and that the sunken ambulatory which encircles its east end and is now open to the sky formed part of the earlier building. The wall forming the outer circumference of the ambulatory, with the two wide recesses which it contains, has been rebuilt, but the inner wall is old, except for a portion beneath the east end of the apse, and retains much of its original plaster. An off-set of bricks, of which some courses remain on the north side, supported the springing of a barrel-vault, and this is reproduced in the modern work. Upon this semicircular base the polygonal apse was built. No bricks occur in the masonry above the substructure, but a species of tufa, which is not found in the nave or presbytery, is freely used, and as this occurs also in the middle part of the tower it has been inferred that these two works are contemporary.⁸ Evidence that the polygonal apse was a rebuilding is also afforded by the fact that its northern wall encroaches on the east wall of the presbytery in such a way that the window in that wall only just escapes being blocked.⁹

The position of the windows in the east wall of the presbytery indicates that the ambulatory¹⁰ was originally external to an apse the upper part of which was semicircular both within and without.¹¹ The ambulatory was covered by a barrel vault which, as already stated, sprang from an offset or string-course of bricks at a height of about 6 ft. 6 in. above the floor, and was probably protected by a lean-to roof, the eaves of which must have been close to the ground. No traces of a crypt below the apse, such as the ambulatory would

lead one to expect, can be found. The soil beneath the apse is said to be undisturbed and mainly solid iron-stone rock. When the upper part of the inner face of the old ambulatory wall was uncovered at the restoration it bore no traces of plaster,¹² while the plaster on the outer face is original and conceals no openings to any inner chamber. There was an opening in the east part of the wall, which has now been rebuilt, but it is believed that this was made for a burial at a much later date.¹³ The use of the ambulatory must to some extent remain conjectural. The two doorways from the presbytery, however, imply that it was intended for visitors to a shrine, who would enter in the usual way by one door and leave by the other, and the recesses¹⁴ on the north-east and south-east sides of the passage may have contained tombs or relics.

The west tower, together with the west wall of the nave, remains to be described. The tower is built at right angles to the west wall, set obliquely to the nave, and measures externally 21 ft. 6 in. from north to south. It is of three stages below the later bell-chamber, undivided by strings, each stage communicating by a doorway with the rounded staircase turret on its west face. The lowest stage originally formed the porch of the 7th-century church, from which it is entered by a wide¹⁵ archway with semicircular head of Roman brick: the porch had a lofty western entrance and an upper chamber with a gabled roof, and was flanked on each side, as already stated, by a small building¹⁶ with an upper room, the use of which is conjectural. These lateral chambers were entered by lesser doorways in the north and south walls, that on the south side¹⁷ now forming the outer entrance to the tower, but there was no communication between the upper rooms¹⁸ and the chamber over the porch, and nothing survives to indicate how they were approached. The porch chamber was entered from the interior of the church by a round-headed doorway,¹⁹ now blocked, set vertically above the taller ground-floor archway and approached by a wooden stair or landing. The chamber had a window in the west wall and another on the south, the latter placed high in the wall so as to clear the roof of the flanking building. In the 10th-century reconstruction a tower was raised upon this western porch, the line of whose gabled roof is still visible in the original plaster-work in the west wall, and there are other slighter indications of it in the east wall. In the work of heightening the walls of the porch tufa

¹ *Assoc. Arch. Soc. Rpts.* xx, 350. The excavation was made to a depth of 6 ft. 4 in. below the then existing chancel floor level. The early wall of the apse reached from the bottom of this to a height of 4 ft. 9 in.

² Or of five sides in addition to the two parallel sides in the western portion.

³ They are 20 in. wide, about 6 in. in projection in the upper part and about 16 in. below.

⁴ *Arch. Jour.* lxi, 507.

⁵ The window is 3 ft. 8 in. wide, but no bricks are used in its head. The original wall here remains to the height of 5 ft. above the spring of the window arch, which is 16 ft. 4 in. above the apse floor: *Assoc. Arch. Soc. Rpts.* xx, 350. It was assumed that there had been a similar window in the corresponding south bay and in the east wall.

⁶ *Arch. Jour.* lxi, 510.

⁷ This plan is typical of the 6th-century churches of Ravenna, and excavations at

Reculver show that it was copied in England. The 10th-century apses at Deerhurst and Wing (Bucks.) are polygonal both within and without, and belong to a different tradition: note by Mr. A. W. Clapham.

⁸ *Arch. Jour.* lxi, 510. Tufa is found in the tower in connexion with herring-bone coursing and, as this is generally indicative of an early Norman date, Prof. Hamilton Thompson places the rebuilding of the apse in the latter part of the 11th century, 'possibly soon after the Norman Conquest'. But Mr. Beeby Thompson has pointed out that as the tufa is from the glacial gravel beds of the neighbourhood it might be used for repairs or building at any time.

⁹ *Ibid.* 507. The wall covers its south jamb. The new south wall also encroaches on the corresponding window.

¹⁰ The ambulatory is 7 ft. 6 in. wide at the bottom, but the sides of the polygonal upper part of the apse overhang the semi-

circular lower part below the former vault by an average of 13 in.: *Assoc. Arch. Soc. Rpts.* xx, 352.

¹¹ *Arch. Jour.* lxi, 508.

¹² *Assoc. Arch. Soc. Rpts.* xx, 351.

¹³ *Ibid.*

¹⁴ The recesses are 6 ft. 4 in. and 6 ft. 9 in. wide respectively and about 19 in. deep. They are about 12 in. above the floor, but their original height cannot now be stated: *Assoc. Arch. Soc. Rpts.* xx, 351.

¹⁵ The width is 4 ft. 10 in.

¹⁶ Foundations have also been found of a building, probably an outer porch, at right angles to the west wall.

¹⁷ The other is blocked.

¹⁸ The holes for the floor joists, now filled, can still be distinguished in the outer walls.

¹⁹ The floor level of the porch chamber, as indicated by off-sets in the walls below the existing floor, was lower than at present.

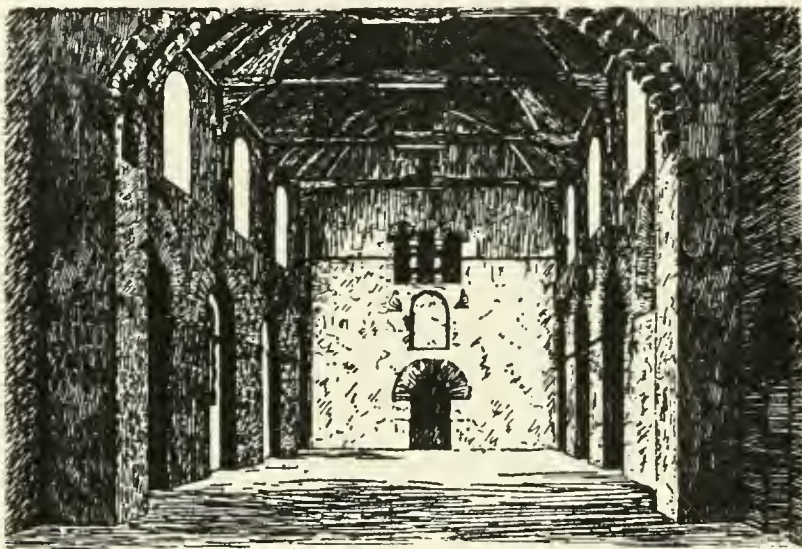
A HISTORY OF NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

was largely used,¹ and the tower was erected with a stairway built against its western face to afford easy access to the upper chambers. A low round-headed doorway to the stair, on the ground floor, was made within the opening of the lofty arch of the original entrance, which was now filled in, and to this period also belongs the large triple opening in the west wall of the nave, composed of three narrow arches turned in brick, and divided by large baluster shafts, forming a window in the first floor of the tower. The fact that this triple opening cuts into the head of the arch of the (blocked) upper doorway to the porch chamber is sufficient indication, apart from the character of the work itself, that the opening is of later date than the

coursing occurs in the turret and in the south wall of the tower, and similar coursing is found on the inside of the east and west walls on the first floor.

The 14th-century bell-chamber windows are of two trefoiled lights with elongated quatrefoil in the head and ogee-shaped hood-mould. The spire rises from a corbel table of notch-heads and has ribbed angles and two tiers of lights in the cardinal faces.

In the south chapel are two moulded wall recesses of c. 1300 with short jamb-shafts, the easternmost of which contains a fine effigy of a knight in chain mail and surcoat, probably representing Sir John de Verdon (d. 1276),⁵ to whom the late-13th-century rebuilding of this part of the church is ascribed. There is a late-



BRIXWORTH CHURCH: INTERIOR, LOOKING WEST*

wall; the baluster shafts have through-stone impost blocks, capitals of a rough trapezoidal shape, rounded centre-blocks swelling in the middle, with neck and base mouldings, and tall bases, the upper parts of which have hollow curves.²

The stair in the western turret is lighted by wide rectangular openings, originally closed by pierced stones,³ and is covered by a winding vault, which retains much of its original plaster.⁴ The first floor of the tower is entered from the stair through a round-headed archway with brick voussoirs, formed from the original west window of the porch chamber. The entrance to the second floor is through a rough opening, but the walling at this height is of the 14th century, when the present bell-chamber stage was erected and the broach spire with angle pinnacles built. The head of the stair and its vault were then destroyed just above the vault's springing, but the turret was retained to its full height, rising some distance above the later masonry. A considerable amount of herring-bone

15th-century painted screen in front of the eastern arch of the chapel arcade.

The font is ancient and consists of a small circular bowl on a tall circular shaft or pedestal, with moulded base.⁶ The wooden pulpit is modern and stands on a stone base.

In the church are some interesting carved stones. One of these, with the figure of an eagle in low relief, is built into the inner west jamb of the south doorway.⁷ A portion of a pre-Conquest cross shaft, found in the vicarage garden close to the church in 1897, is now placed near the pulpit; its ornamental sculpture closely resembles that of the 'fishing stone' at Gosforth, Cumberland.⁸ Another carved stone is built into the east wall of the south chapel.

In the floor of the presbytery are two monumental slabs with inscriptions in Lombardic lettering: one is that of Simon Curteys (d. 1328) the founder of the chantry, while the other is that of Adam de Tauntone, vicar, who died in 1334.⁹ There is also a third slab,

¹ *Arch. Jour.* lxi, 509.

² *Ibid.* lxi, 508.

³ Two of the openings are still thus closed, but one of the stones, if not both, is a comparatively late insertion: *ibid.*

⁴ Its material, and that of the newel of the stair, is in great part tufa.

⁵ Described in *V.C.H. Northants.* i, 396.

⁶ The bowl is 22½ in. in diam. and 16 in. high. The date is uncertain.

⁷ Its claim to be Roman (*Archaeol.* xliii, 119) is generally abandoned. It is described by Sir H. Dryden in *Assoc. Arch. Soc. Rpts.* xxii, 78. See also *V.C.H. Northants.* ii, 189, where it is styled 'the arm of a cross', and Prior and Gardner, *Eng. Med. Figure Sculpture* (1912), 131, under 'Saxon sculpture'.

⁸ *Assoc. Arch. Soc. Rpts.* xxvi, 445, where it is figured. The sculpture repre-

sents the struggle between Fenrir and Jormungand.

⁹ Both slabs have indents for brasses; the inscriptions are given in Bridges, *Hist. of Northants.* ii, 83-4. The date of Simon's death, given as 16 August 1328, must be wrong, as he was dead before April 1327: *Cal. Pat.* 1327-30, p. 69.

* Reproduced from Baldwin Brown, *op. cit.*, by permission of Messrs. John Murray.

very much worn, with indents of a figure, border inscription and shield.

There is a brass plate to Edward Saunders (d. 1630),¹ and in the south chapel a marble mural monument to John Wright (d. 1680). There are numerous 19th-century memorials.

A 14th-century stone reliquary, containing the reputed throat-bone of a saint, is set on a plain stone bracket in the north-east angle of the nave, near the pulpit.²

A large iron-bound chest with two locks in the south chapel is probably of 17th-century date.

The organ occupies the western part of the south chapel.

Before the restoration the roof of the nave and presbytery was of plain tie-beam construction and of low pitch covered with lead; the new roof, which is slated, follows the pitch of that erected in the 14th century, the tabling of which remained on the east face of the tower.³ The battlemented parapets probably date from the 15th century; at the east end the gable has been rebuilt. The south chapel has a lean-to leaded roof behind a plain parapet.

There is a ring of five bells, the first four cast in 1622, and the tenor by Henry Bagley of Chacombe in 1683.⁴ A new clock was erected in 1897.

The silver plate consists of a cup and cover paten of 1700 inscribed 'Donum Rich. Richardsoni Vicarij Brixorthensis anno 1699'; a paten of 1873 given by Richard Lee Bevan in 1883; and a flagon of 1873. There are also a pewter flagon and four pewter plates.⁵

The registers before 1812 are as follows: (i) baptisms 1562–March 1758, marriages 1565–March 1758, burials 1546–May 1759; (ii) baptisms and burials 1760–1812; (iii) marriages 1754–October 1797; (iv) June 1798–1812.

The advowson was held at an early *ADVOUSON* date by Arnold the Falconer, but was given to Salisbury Cathedral, which was confirmed in possession of it by Henry II.⁶ It was attached to the chancellorship of the cathedral as a prebend,⁷ and remained in the gift of the chancellor until 1840, when it passed to the Bishop of Peterborough.⁸ In 1291 the rectory was worth £21 6s. 8d. and

the vicarage £4 13s. 4d.;⁹ by 1535 the rectorial prebend was worth £18 and the vicarage £14 19s. whence 3s. 4d. was paid to the Archdeacon of Northampton for procurations and synodals.¹⁰ It was endowed with £200 of Queen Anne's Bounty to meet a donation of £200 from Sir Justinian Isham in 1726.¹¹ The tithes were commuted for land in 1780.

There was a chantry chapel of St. Mary situated in the churchyard,¹² founded in 1327 by William Curteys, a London merchant, in fulfilment of the wishes of his father Simon, and endowed with three messuages, 30 acres of land and 100s. of rent.¹³ In 1549 part of the land was granted to William Cecil and Lawrence Eiresbie,¹⁴ while the next year the chapel, except the bells, was given to Richard Heybourne and William Dalbye.¹⁵ Three cottages and some land which had belonged to the chantry were given to Thomas Reeve and George Cotton in 1552, to hold of the king as of his manor of East Greenwich.¹⁶

In the manor-house of Wolfage there was a chantry founded by Sir James Harrington.¹⁷

A piece of land appropriated to the *CHARITIES* use of the poor now yields about £40 annually. It is not known how this property came to be settled, but at the time of the inclosure of the parish an allotment of 3½ acres was awarded to the vicar, churchwardens, and overseers of the poor in trust. An allotment of 6½ acres was set out on the inclosure in lieu of certain open field lands appropriated to the repair of the parish church. It now produces about £14 yearly.

Thomas Lelam in 1601 devised a rent-charge of 8s. a year for the poor payable out of a house in Brixworth. By deed of 14 September 1665 Thomas Roe conveyed lands to trustees to pay £10 yearly to the schoolmaster in Scaldwell. Subsequent to the inclosure of 1780 the allotment made in lieu of the original land was found to be sufficient for the support of two schoolmasters, and in June 1822 it was decided that the money should be divided between the schoolmasters of the parishes of Brixworth and Scaldwell. The charity now yields about £135 a year, and has been reorganized under a new scheme by the Board of Education.¹⁸

¹ Son of Francis Saunders of Welford, lord of the manor of Brixworth: inscription in Bridges, *op. cit.*

² The relic was found in a small cylindrical wooden box in November 1809 on taking down a bracket from the wall in the back of a pew in the middle window on the south side. The reliquary contained a fragment of bone and a 'slip or filament of paper or parchment which fell to powder' on being exposed to the air. The box and relic were committed to the care of a Miss Elizabeth Green of Brixworth, on the death of whose surviving sister in 1875 they were given to the vicar of Brixworth and by him restored to the church. The reliquary is believed to have been the

original receptacle of the relic. It was found in 'the mortuary chapel south-east of the choir', and is now protected by a slender iron grille. The fact that there was a gild in the parish in honour of St. Boniface has caused the relic to be ascribed to that saint: *inf. from Par. Mag.* 1809, quoted in article by the Rev. John F. Halford, vicar, in *Dioc. Mag.* (n.d.), exhibited in the church.

³ *Assoc. Arch. Soc. Rpts.* xx, 346.

⁴ North, *Ch. Bells of Northants.* 209, where the inscriptions are given. Nos. 1–4 have the foundry shield with a crown between three bells: the tenor has the royal arms.

⁵ Markham, *Ch. Plate of Northants.* 53.

⁶ Dugdale, *Mon. Angl.* vi, 1296.

⁷ *Cal. Pap. Reg.* viii, 459.

⁸ Under the Act 3 & 4 Vic. c. 113 (41): *ex inf.* Mr. H. Savory.

⁹ *Tax. Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), 39.

¹⁰ *Valor Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), ii, 73; iv, 306.

¹¹ Bridges, *Hist. Northants.* ii, 82.

¹² *Cal. Pat. Edw. VI.* ii, 355.

¹³ *Cal. Pat.* 1324–7, p. 132; 1327–30, p. 69.

¹⁴ *Cal. Pat. Edw. VI.* ii, 355.

¹⁵ *Ibid.* iv, 24–5.

¹⁶ *Ibid.* iv, 254.

¹⁷ Whellan, *Hist. Northants.* 854.

¹⁸ *V.C.H. Northants.* ii, 283.

BROUGHTON

Bructon, Burtone, Bruton (xi cent.); Brocton (xiii cent.).

Broughton lies to the south of Cransley, and has Kettering to the east of it, its northern boundary for some distance being the Northampton to Kettering road. The village, which is large, lies where this road bends to run south through the parish, and is situated between it and another main road connected here by smaller streets. It contains several good houses, and lies at a height of about 425 ft., the ground falling to about 325 ft. at the southern extremity of the parish.

Saint Andrew's Church lies at the eastern end of the southernmost of the above-mentioned connecting roads.

West of the church is a large two-storied stone house known as 'The Gables', with mullioned windows, thatched roof, and main end gables and two smaller intermediate ones on the principal, or north, front: a panel in the eastern gable is inscribed 'w. F., 1685'. On the south side of the main road is a 17th-century house of ironstone which though altered and in part mutilated for road-widening purposes retains much of its original picturesqueness: it is of two main stories, with mullioned windows and high-pitched thatched roof containing attics lighted by windows in the end gables and there is a smaller gable on the west front at the angle of the building. Near the west end of the High Street is a modernized two-story house with thatched roof and panel in the end gable inscribed 'T^P E, 1705'.

The school was built in 1870, and rebuilt in 1892 for 135 children. The churchyard was enlarged in 1860; and in 1900 a cemetery of an acre was formed and is under the control of the parish council.

The population is mainly collected in the village, which has near it on the north-west Churchill Spinney and an old quarry. Away by itself at the eastern side of the parish is Broughton Lodge, a fine old house. When Newton House (in Newton-in-the-Willows) was demolished, about 1800, portions of the material were used in this house, then a farm-house, where many years before the last of the Newton Treshams had lived.¹ Near by is Clarke's Lodge.

The Union Dissenting chapel was built in 1851 for various denominations.

A disastrous fire visited Broughton in 1701, when briefs were issued to assist in reconstruction.² The church fortunately escaped. Its rectors have been men of note. They include: Robert Bolton (1610-1631), the father of Dr. Samuel Bolton who was chaplain to Charles II, 'a grave and comely person'—according to Fuller—'an authoritative preacher who majestically became the pulpit'; and the wise and witty Royalist divine, Joseph Bentham (1632-1671), who wrote in 1657 'Two Breife but Usefull Treatises: the one touching the office and quality of the Ministry of the Gospel: the other of the Nature and Accidents

of Mixt Dancing'. After much suffering during the Civil Wars, he came back to his old parish at the Restoration, where he died in 1671, as an inscription on a stone within the altar rails shows. He left in his will £40 to be distributed annually for ever among the poor at Broughton on the happy day of His Majesty's restoration, and 10s. to be given yearly in the church porch, at Weekley, to such poor persons as should come to church on the 29th of May.

The population, which was 374 in 1801, in 1931 was 1,207.³ The parish has an area of 1,742 acres. Part of the soil is of a stiff, clayey nature, and of the subsoil ironstone. The chief crops grown are wheat, beans, and sugar-beet.

One and a half hides of socland in Broughton MANOR ton were valued in the Domesday Survey with a hide in Cransley and 3 virgates in Hannington among the Countess Judith's land,⁴ and descended with her other lands in the honor of Huntingdon.

Robert Bruce in 1284 held a fee in BROUGHTON of the king in chief, this fee being held under him by Walter de Huntcumbe, of Walter by Geoffrey de Leuknor, and of Geoffrey by William de St. German,⁵ the under-tenant by whose family it was held for several centuries. In 1378 this fee was among those lately held of Edward Prince of Wales by Simon Simeon in succession to Geoffrey Leuknor.⁶ The overlordship of the manor was returned in 1485 as unknown,⁷ but was ascribed in 1522 to Rothwell Manor,⁸ which was at the time in the hands of Sir William Parr by a grant for 40 years, after the attainder of Edward Duke of Buckingham.⁹ It was returned as held of the king as of his manor of Rothwell in 1615.¹⁰ Apparently the intermediate lordships had lapsed during the 15th century and the property had been combined with the half hide in Broughton which at the time of the Domesday Survey was a member of the royal manor of Rothwell.¹¹

The first St. German under-tenant in Broughton recorded was Robert, who held 2 carucates there in 1229.¹² William de St. German was lord of Broughton in 1252¹³ and was dealing with land there in 1260.¹⁴ William de St. German, presumably identical with the coroner for the county of Northampton,¹⁵ claimed view of frankpledge in Broughton in 1276,¹⁶ and, as already stated, was holding the manor in 1284. A William de St. German was holding Broughton in 1316,¹⁷ and in 1329 he or a namesake with his wife Margaret settled the manor upon themselves and their heirs;¹⁸ later in the same year he paid a fine of half a mark to recover



BRUCE. Or a saltire and a chief gules with a leopard or in the chief

¹ *N. & Q. Northants.* i (1905-7), 166.

² *Ibid.* i (1884-5), 32.

³ The Poll Bks. show that in 1705 there were 48 freeholders, in 1831 there were 14.

⁴ *V.C.H. Northants.* i, 351.

⁵ *Feud. Aids*, iv, 2.

⁶ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 2 Ric. II (1st nos.), 57.

⁷ *Cal. Inq. p.m. Hen. VII*, i, 13.

⁸ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), xxxviii, 29.

⁹ *L. and P. Hen. VIII*, iii, 2482 (10).

¹⁰ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), cccxvii, 19.

¹¹ *V.C.H. Northants.* i, 306. View of frankpledge in Broughton was held in 1306 as appurtenant to Rothwell by Joan daughter of Edward I and widow of the Earl of Gloucester: *Cal. Inq. p.m.* iv, p. 317.

¹² *Cal. Close*, 1227-31, p. 246.

¹³ *Assize R.* 615, m. 37.

¹⁴ Feet of F. Northants. 44 Hen. III,

no. 736. A William St. German, the king's serjeant-at-arms, died in 1265: *Cal. Pat.* 1258-66, p. 513. Another William was esquire to the Earl of Gloucester in 1267: *ibid.* 1266-72, p. 87.

¹⁵ *Cal. Close*, 1272-9, p. 276.

¹⁶ *Hund. R.* (Rec. Com.), ii, 12.

¹⁷ *Feud. Aids*, iv, 21.

¹⁸ Feet of F. Northants. 3 Edw. III, no. 40.

view of frankpledge there.¹ In 1428 Thomas de St. German was holding the fee in Broughton which William had formerly held.²

The last under-tenant of the name was Geoffrey St. German (Sengermyn), who died on 22 August 1485.³ By deed dated 10 April 1465 he had settled the manor on trustees, who on 10 October 1485 enfeoffed of the same Thomas Agard and his wife Margaret, the daughter and heir of Geoffrey, then aged eighteen.⁴ It was then worth 5 marks, and was not held of the king, but its tenure was unknown. Thomas and Margaret with John Agard in 1497 conveyed the manor, then described as the manor of *BROUGHTON SEYNT JERMYN* to Edmund Grevyle and others by fine.⁵ On 18 May 1522 George Agard, son and heir of Thomas and Margaret, died seised of the manor, mill, &c., which he had settled on his wife Elizabeth, with remainder to his son John; he was also seised of a life interest in certain tenements after the death of Christopher St. German, with remainder to George's son, Stephen, his heir, aged nine at George's death.⁶



ST. GERMAN. *Azure a saltire or between four rings argent.*



AGARD. *Argent a chevron engrailed gules between three boars' heads sable.*

Besides George, the heir, Thomas and Margaret had had two other sons, Edward and Nicholas. They subsequently instituted proceedings against Edward Warner,⁷ who married George's widow and executrix Elizabeth. The result is a valuable chapter of family history. The complaint of the brothers Agard begins with the statement that Geoffrey St. German had forfeited his lands by attainder of treason, after fighting at Bosworth Field against Henry VII; but long before his attainder he had granted the manor to one Sir William Tyler. When his daughter and heir Margaret had been married to Thomas Agard, John brother of the said Thomas had redeemed the manor and lands from Sir William Tyler for £400, and conveyed it to the use of Thomas and Margaret and their heirs. Thomas died leaving unpaid of the said £400 the sum of £83, which John in his will directed should be divided equally between the plaintiffs. George, the son and heir, granted an annuity of £4 to Edward, and of 40s. to Nicholas, who delivered the indentures of agreement to Edward Warner, in whom they had special confidence, he being learned in the law. After they had enjoyed the annuities for three years, George died, and Elizabeth with Edward Warner, whom she had then married, refused payment of the annuities.

Edward stated that Thomas Agard, having neither goods nor lands, but being a wildly disposed young man, came with other evil-disposed persons to Clerkenwell by London, where Margaret was by the commandment of her father, and in the night time, privately led her away and married her, whereby her father lost the marriage of his only daughter and heir, for whom great sums had been offered by men of great possessions.

'And the saide Geffery perceived grete lightnes and wildenes in the saide Thomas Agard after he had married his saide daughter and accomptyd hir lost and cast away and thereupon fell in grete sorrow and sadenes and had smale comfort which was the cause whereupon the saide Geffery rode to Kyng Rychards felde and ther by misfortune was slayne and as some persones surmysed by the means of the seid Thomas Agard and others of his affinitye ther being at the seid felde and in grete malyce with the seyd Geffery Seyntgerman for such trobuls as the seid Geffery had put him to for the marriage of the saide daughter.'

After the death of her father and birth of her children, Thomas Agard deserted his wife 'reputyd and taken for as good vertuse and as sade a woman as any was within the Shyer of Northampton' who lived in a cottage 'in her lordship of Broughton in as great poverté as a woman might be having such fere possessions so that she lyved of almes and helpe of her frends', while Agard in her lifetime sold all her inheritance except the manor of Broughton, where he demised lands to one Henry Packe of Kettering, pledged all the evidences of her inheritance, and then died at Westminster in great debt. His son George, according to Edward Warner, had recovered part of these lands, which were being applied by his widow and her husband to the maintenance of his children. The lease referred to appears to have been made to Henry Packe of Kettering by Thomas Agard, his wife Margaret, and son George in return for money advanced to procure the release of Thomas Agard from imprisonment in the Fleet for debt.⁸ Stephen, returned as lord in 1546,⁹ married Elizabeth, daughter to William Raynsford of Tew in co. Oxford, widow of Robert Belcher, by whom he had a son Ambrose and two daughters, Jane married to Richard Wycherley of Wycherley, and Elizabeth who married Harold Kinnesman of Broughton, 'Vice-treasurer at armes in the Irish Warrs'.¹⁰ At his death in 1562, Stephen Agard was succeeded by his son Ambrose, who in 1588 contributed £25 to the defence of the country against the Spanish invasion.¹¹ A conveyance of the manor was made by Ambrose on 20 March 1591 to Francis Barnard, Christopher Smyth, and John Doyley, 'all alyed in kindred with him', to the use of Ambrose for life, with remainder to his son and heir Stephen, in order to secure an annuity of £20 to any wife he might afterwards marry; after which he married a wife Anne (who also had children by a previous marriage).¹² Ambrose's son Stephen conveyed the manor to Sir Augustine Nicholls, justice of the King's Bench,¹³ who with his wife Dame Mary sold it in 1613 to John and Henry Cotton. Henry Cotton, esq., died on 11 June 1616, when John, his brother, described as of London, gent., was still living at Broughton. The heirs

¹ *Plac. de Quo Warr.* (Rec. Com.), 520-1.

² *Feud. Aids*, iv, 32.

³ *Cal. Inq. p.m. Hen. VII*, i, 13.

⁴ *Ibid.*

⁵ Feet of F. Div. Co. East. 12 Hen. VII.

⁶ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), xxxix, 29.

⁷ *Ct. of Req.* xi, 205.

⁸ Early *Chan. Proc.* cccxlv, 44; *ibid.* clv, 58; cccxlv, 62; cccxlix, 34.

⁹ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), lxxv, 40.

¹⁰ Bridges, *Hist. of Northants*, ii, 87. Inscription in Broughton Church. Richard Kynnesman 'King's Auditor' (*ibid.*) was sequestered and fined £179 10s. in 1649; *Cal. of Com. for Compounding*, 1897.

¹¹ *N. & Q. Northants*, i (1884-5), 46. A George Warner of Broughton was imprisoned in the Gatehouse 'on suspicion of making prophecies': *Acts of P.C.* 1575-7, p. 128.

¹² *Chan. Proc.* (Ser. 2), cclv, 16.

¹³ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), cccxlvii, 19; Feet of F. Northants. East. 11 Jas. I.

A HISTORY OF NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

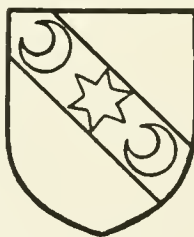
of Henry were his sisters Katharine Cotton, widow; Frances, wife of Sir Edward Montagu of Boughton; and Rebecca, wife of William Mulsho of Finedon, aged, respectively, 24, 23, and 22 at their brother's death.¹ The manor was next held in thirds by these heirs and their representatives.

In March 1617-18 Sir Edward Montagu and Frances his wife, and William Mulsho and Rebecca his wife were dealing by fine with two-thirds of the manor, advowson, frankpledge, &c.;² and by his will proved on 16 June 1646 Sir Edward Montagu bequeathed his third to his grandson Sir Edward Montagu,³ who in 1659 conveyed it to Thomas Kipps.⁴ A conveyance was made in 1628 of the manor of Boughton by John Tullakerne to Thomas Tullakerne,⁵ and in 1665 by John Tullakerne and Martha his wife and Thomas Cory and Elizabeth his wife to Thomas Harris and John Neale.⁶

According to Bridges, Rebecca Gooday, widow, formerly wife of William Mulsho, and William Mulsho her second son sold the Mulsho third of the manor in 1648 to Edward Lord Montagu.⁷ It was presumably therefore Katharine Cotton's third which had been dealt with by the Tullakerne, and which in 1702 John Farrow and Dinah his wife, Ellis Farrow, Theophilus Dillingham and Mary his wife, John Bigg and Rebecca his wife, Samuel Watts and Elizabeth his wife, and Robert Miller conveyed to Benjamin Styles and Robert Hewett,⁸ with one-third of the advowson, and of which John Farrow and Dinah his wife and Benjamin Styles and Elizabeth his wife made a conveyance in 1704 to William Farrow.⁹ Two-thirds of the manor and advowson were dealt with by recovery in the same year by Ralph Earl of Montagu and John Montagu, his son and heir apparent,¹⁰ the whole ultimately being in the hands of the Duke of Montagu. John Duke of Montagu (d. 1749) married Mary the fourth and youngest daughter and co-heir of the great Duke of Marlborough, and the death without issue of their only son in his father's lifetime resulted in the division of this property between their daughters and co-heirs: Isabella who married first the Duke of Manchester and second Edward Hussey-Montagu, created Baron Beaulieu in 1762, and Mary who married George Brudenell, 3rd Earl of Cardigan, subsequently created Duke of Montagu. As George Earl of Cardigan the latter was in 1760 holding one moiety of Boughton with his son John, who also died s.p. in 1770 in the lifetime of his father. Elizabeth, the only daughter and heir of George



MONTAGU. *Argent a fesse indented of three points gules in a border sable, quartered with or an eagle vert.*



SCOTT, DUKE OF BUCCLEUCH. *Or a bend azure with a molet between two crescents or thereon.*

Duke of Montagu (2nd cr.), married Henry Scott, 3rd Duke of Buccleuch, and one moiety of Boughton was held in 1776 by George Duke of Montagu and by his son-in-law Henry Duke of Buccleuch, and his wife Elizabeth,¹¹ the other half being then, and in 1786,¹² in the hands of Edward Earl of Beaulieu and his wife Isabella. By the death s.p. on 25 November 1802 of Edward Earl of Beaulieu, the two moieties came together again under the Dukes of Buccleuch, the present owner being the 8th duke.

In an inspeximus dated 18 May 1328 for the abbess and nuns of St. Mary's, Northampton, or Delapré, lands in Boughton, given by Reynold son of Thomas de Boughton, and by Alexander son of Reynold de Boughton, were included,¹³ and rents from Boughton Mill. These were granted on 21 December 1545, as the *NUNLANDS*, in the occupation of John Hichecok, 3 selions of which lay in Middlefield, to Thomas Thoroughgood and John Foster,¹⁴ a fresh grant of the same property and of the rectory and advowson being made to Sir Thomas Tresham and George Tresham in 1551.¹⁵

A rent of 4s. yearly in Boughton was granted by Hugh son of Alfred de Dingley to the nuns of Sewardslaye.¹⁶

The church of *ST. ANDREW* consists *CHURCH* of chancel, 33 ft. 9 in. by 16 ft. 3 in.; clerestoried nave, 44 ft. 9 in. by 17 ft.; north aisle, 10 ft. 6 in. wide; south aisle, 12 ft. 10 in. wide; north and south porches, and west tower with broach spire, 9 ft. 6 in. by 9 ft. 3 in., all these measurements being internal. The width across nave and aisles is 44 ft. 9 in., the 'body' of the church being thus exactly square.

The original church was a 12th-century aisleless building with nave covering the same area as at present, the north-east and south-east quoins of which remain *in situ*, but the south doorway was moved outward when the aisle was added. A flat buttress at the south-west angle of the nave, close to the tower, is also part of the early building. The doorway has a semicircular arch of two orders and hood-mould, the outer order on nook-shafts and ornamented with a plain chevron, the inner with lozenge and pellet ornament, on plain jambs and chamfered imposts; the capital of the east shaft is carved, the other scalloped.

The north doorway is of the 13th century, and there is a blocked lancet above the south porch towards the west, but whether either of these is in its original position is uncertain, though aisles may have been added¹⁷ at this period and subsequently rebuilt. In their present form the aisles and arcades are of the early part of the 14th century, and appear to have followed the rebuilding of the chancel c. 1290-1300, and the erection of the tower c. 1300-10. The clerestory and north porch are of the 14th century, but the south porch has been largely rebuilt and its front is modern. The chancel was rebuilt in 1828,¹⁸ but much of the old work was retained, the windows and other architectural features being re-used. The church was restored in 1854.

¹ Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), cccxlvii, 19.

² Feet of F. Northants. Hil. 15 Jas.

³ Bridges, *Hist. of Northants.* ii, 85.

⁴ Notes of F. Northants. East. 1659.

⁵ Feet of F. Northants. East. 4 Chas. I.

⁶ Ibid. Mich. 17 Chas. II.

⁷ Bridges, *Hist. of Northants.* ii, 85.

⁸ Feet of F. Northants. Hil. 1 Anne.

⁹ Ibid. Mich. 3 Anne.

¹⁰ Recov. R. Hil. 3 Anne, ro. 223.

¹¹ Feet of F. Northants. East. 16 Geo. III.

¹² Priv. Stat. 26 Geo. III, cap. 45.

¹³ Chart. R. 2 Edw. III, m. 15, no. 47.

¹⁴ L. and P. Hen. VIII, xx (2), g. 1068 (40); Pat. R. 37 Hen. VIII, pt. 9.

¹⁵ Ibid. 5 Edw. VI, pt. 7.

¹⁶ Anct. D. 7162.

¹⁷ The difference in the width of the aisles may be the result of their having been first added in the 13th century, the south aisle being subsequently widened on its rebuilding.

¹⁸ A panel on the upper part of the south wall is inscribed 'Rebuilt 1828. The Hon^d & Rev^d J. Douglas, Rector.'

The chancel is faced with roughly dressed coursed ironstone and has a stone-slatted eaved roof. The aisles are of rubble and together with the nave have low-pitched leaded roofs behind plain parapets, except on the north side where the lead overhangs. The clerestory is of coursed stone. Both porches are gabled and have slated roofs.

The chancel has a late-13th-century east window of five lights with intersecting tracery and quatrefoiled circle in the head, moulded jambs, and hood-mould with head-stops. The lower part of the east wall, with dwarf coupled buttresses, appears to be old, and has a chamfered string-course. There is a contemporary moulded doorway in the north wall,¹ and west of it a plain rectangular low-side window with chamfered edges,² but otherwise the wall is blank. In the south wall are two pointed windows of two trefoiled lights, the easternmost much restored with quatrefoil in the head, the other traceried and wholly new. Internally the sill of the easternmost window is lowered to form two graded seats,³ and at the east end of the north wall is a restored trefoiled aumbry. The walls, as elsewhere in the church, are plastered. The 14th-century chancel arch is of two chamfered orders, the inner on half-octagonal responds, with moulded capitals and bases.

The nave arcades are of three bays with arches of two chamfered orders springing from octagonal piers with moulded capitals and bases. The arches were cut through the older wall leaving a 5 ft. length of masonry at each end on either side, but the south arcade seems to be the earlier, its piers being more massive and differing in detail from those opposite. At the east end of the north arcade there is a half-octagonal respond, but at the west and on the south side the arches spring from corbels, that at the north-west supported by a mask, the others moulded. There are hood-moulds on the south side only, and the piers stand on square plinths. Two rood-loft doorways remain, one high up north of the chancel arch, the other (blocked) to the stairs at the east end of the south aisle, about 2 ft. 6 in. above the floor.

All the windows of the aisles are square-headed and of three trefoiled lights. The 13th-century north doorway is of three orders, the innermost with a continuous sunk quarter-round, the others moulded on shafts with moulded capitals.⁴ The outer doorway of the porch is of a single continuous wave-moulded order and hood-mould with head-stops. The modern front of the south porch has a doorway with stone lintel.

The nave roof is of four equal bays spaced irrespective of the arcades; there are three square-headed clerestory windows of two trefoiled lights on each side, the western roof-bay being blank.

The tower has a moulded plinth and coupled buttresses of three stages, but is without string-courses, and on the north side is blank. On the west is a three-light ogee-headed window with hood-mould and intersecting tracery and above it a small trefoil-headed opening, while high up on the south side is a tall trefoiled lancet. The arch to the nave is of three chamfered orders, the

inner on half-octagonal responds with moulded capitals and bases. There is no vice. The pointed bell-chamber windows are of two trefoiled lights with quatrefoil in the head, moulded jambs, and slightly ogee label. The spire rises from a corbel table of heads and has plain angles and two tiers of openings on the cardinal faces, the lower of two cinquefoiled lights with quatrefoil in the head. The broaches are very small.

The late-14th-century font has an elaborately carved octagonal bowl, and pedestal with traceried panels and angle shafts. The pulpit is of Caen stone, erected in 1867.

On the north wall of the chancel is the monument of Robert Bolton (d. 1631), described as 'Primus et optimus huius ecclesiae praeco doctissime pius', with half-length bust under a semicircular canopy; and on the south wall the bust and monument of Harrold Kynnesman (d. 1631), 'sometime vice-treasurer at armes in the Irish warres in the reign of Queen Elizabeth and for his singular fidelity recalled to the same office in the reign of King James'. There is also a wall tablet to Zachary Rose, rector (d. 1790), and one in the nave to Mrs. Elizabeth Henchman (d. 1772), whose charity is recorded, with others, below the tower.

There is some old glass in the east window of the south aisle, comprising two shields of arms⁵ and three small heads in yellow and white.

There are five bells, the first, second, third, and tenor by Henry Penn of Peterborough, 1709, and the fourth by Robert Taylor of St. Neots, 1803.⁶

The plate consists of a silver paten of 1682, a cup of 1683, a paten of 1721 by Joseph Clare, and a flagon of 1770 by Charles Wright, the gift of Mrs. Ann Mappletoft in 1771.⁷

The registers before 1812 are as follows: (i) baptisms 1560-1631, marriages 1570-1627, burials 1559-1627; (ii) baptisms, marriages, and burials 1632-43, 1653-1746; (iii) baptisms and burials 1746-1812, marriages 1746-55; (iv) marriages 1754-1812. The first volume is much mutilated: the second volume contains a terrier of glebe lands 10 May 1672. There are churchwardens' accounts 1670-1793.

The church was granted by Roger ADVOWSON de Clare, Earl of Hertford, to the convent of Delapré, this grant being confirmed by Robert, Bishop of Lincoln, and by Edward III again on 18 May 1328.⁸ It was valued in 1291 at £7 6s. 8d.⁹ The profits of the rectory, then leased to Alfred Baxter, were returned as £22 yearly in 1535.¹⁰

The advowson was held by the convent of Delapré from at least 1227¹¹ until the Dissolution. It has frequently been leased for one turn¹² both before and after the Dissolution.¹³ After being granted with the Nunlands (q.v.) to Sir Thomas Tresham, it was acquired by the lord of the manor, and was included in the sale of the manor to John and Henry Cotton by Sir Augustine Nicholls in 1613. It was held with the manor until 1920, when it was transferred by the Duke of Buccleuch to the Bishop of Peterborough.

¹ It was probably placed in this position at the rebuilding.

² *Assoc. Arch. Soc. Reports*, xxix, 393. The opening is 2 ft. 10 in. high and 2 ft 6 in. above the floor inside. The window does not show any sign of having been disturbed. It is now glazed and has an oak shutter inside.

³ The seats are modern, but may repro-

duce the original arrangement.

⁴ The bases are covered by the stone benches of the later porch.

⁵ Recorded by Bridges, *Hist. of Northants*, ii, 86: (i) azure a saltire engrailed between four cross crosslets argent, (ii) chequy, gules and or, a canton ermine.

⁶ North, *Ch. Bells of Northants*, 210, where the inscriptions are given.

⁷ Markham, *Ch. Plate of Northants*, 54.

⁸ Chart. R. 2 Edw. III, m. 15, no. 47.

⁹ *Tax. Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), 39.

¹⁰ *Valor Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), iv, 304.

¹¹ List of presentations: Bridges, *Hist. of Northants*, ii, 86.

¹² See *ibid.*
¹³ Cott. Ch. xv, 39, 40; Feet of F. Northants. East. 17 Eliz., III. 15 & 16 Chas. II, &c.

A HISTORY OF NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

When the parish was inclosed in 1786, an allotment of 320 acres was made for tithes and for the glebe.

Edward Hunt's Charity founded by *CHARITIES* will proved at Northampton 7 December 1674 is described under the parish of Warkton. Stock producing £9 5s. 4d. yearly in dividends represents the endowment for this parish.

The Poor's Land. An allotment of about 14 acres was set out in the inclosure in lieu of land formerly given to the poor. The land produces about £24.

Bentham's Charity. It is stated in the accounts for the year 1870 that the rector and churchwardens are the trustees of a sum of £40 left by Mr. Bentham for the poor. The money is invested on mortgage and £2 yearly is received in interest.

Church Estate. An allotment of about 17 acres was set out on the inclosure in lieu of lands anciently appropriated to the repairs of the church. The land is let for £23 13s. yearly which is applied by the churchwardens to church expenses.

Mrs. Elizabeth Henchman, who died in 1772, left

£40 for poor widows who attend church. The money was applied towards making new pews in the parish church and in respect of it £2 is distributed by the churchwardens to about 16 poor widows.

Sarah Keyston on 5 November 1841 deposited £10 in the Kettering Savings Bank on trust to the rector and churchwardens to distribute the income to poor widows of 50 years and upwards, members of the Church of England. The money was eventually invested and the endowment is now £9 16s. 3d. Consols producing 4s. 8d. annually in dividends, which sum is distributed equally among 6 poor widows.

The Rt. Hon. James Lord Douglas by deed of directions dated 7 April 1852 directed the trustees of his will to pay the sum of £1,000 to the rector and churchwardens to be invested in the Public Funds and the interest to be distributed amongst the poor. The endowment now produces £26 7s. yearly. The income is distributed in money payments by the rector and two trustees appointed by the Parish Council in place of the churchwardens.

CRANSLEY

Cransley, Cranesle (xi cent.); Cranesley (xvi cent.).

Cransley, 12 miles north from Northampton, lies on the road from Northampton to Kettering, which skirts it on the south-east. Kettering lies to the east of Cransley, and Walgrave to the west. It includes the hamlet of Little Cransley, near its southern boundary. The village lies along a branch road running north-west from the Northampton road. There is an old tramway for ironstone south of the village; and to the north of the village the Cransley and Loddington tramway now runs across the parish from west to east, the Cransley Iron Works being situated at its eastern end.

St. Andrew's Church lies south of the village street with the vicarage on the other side of the road, where two roads meet. The vicarage house was enlarged in 1858. The school stands at a little distance from the church, to the west of the Three Cranes Inn.

The manor-house,¹ now known as Cransley Hall, stands in a pleasant situation to the north-east of the church, with gardens on the south side above a small brook, here expanded into two large fish-ponds. It is a house of two stories, faced with wrought ironstone, with barred sash windows, wooden cornice, and hipped roofs covered with Colleyweston slates, much altered and added to in the 18th century and subsequently, but still retaining portions of a 16th-century building. The main fronts face west and east, and over the west doorway are the arms of Sir Thomas Cecil,² who may have rebuilt this part of the house before 1595, though the character of the existing elevation is somewhat later. The east and south fronts appear to belong to the rebuilding and enlargement of 1708-9 referred to by Justinian Isham in his Diary,³ and over the east doorway, which is centrally placed with two windows on each side, are the arms and crest of Sir Henry Robinson (d. 1727).⁴ A bay window has been added in the middle

of the south front, and a new two-story wing containing housekeeper's room and servants' hall in character with the 18th-century work was built on the north side by William Somerset Rose (1845-84).⁵ More recently (1905) a further large one-story addition has been made on the north side, on the site of various outbuildings.

At the western end of the village is Cransley Wood, almost due west of which on the western boundary of the parish is the windmill, with Ragsdale Spinney to the south of it; and farther south still Cransley Lodge, Squire Lodge, and Old Lodge.

Outlying farms are North Field Farm in the extreme north, and about half a mile south-west of it Bottom Lodge Homestead near the old ironstone pits, east of which is Bottom Lodge Farm.

The population of Cransley, which was 217 in 1801 and 329 in 1871, was 296 in 1931. The parish has an area of 2,094 acres of land and 19 acres of water. The soil, which varies, is good red and black loam; subsoil lime and ironstone; land arable and grass in equal proportions.

Cransley appears in the hands of three *MANORS* owners in the Domesday Survey. Two hides and 1 virgate of land in Cransley were a member of the king's manor of Rothwell;⁶ 1½ hides were included among the lands of Gunfred de Cioches in Orlingbury Hundred, and were valued as before the Conquest at 30s.;⁷ and among the lands of the Countess Judith, in Wilebrook Hundred, a hide is entered with 1½ hides of socland in Broughton and 3 virgates in Hannington.⁸ By the 12th century these lands were in the hands of four owners and appear to have been redistributed.⁹ Hugh Kyde held 1½ hides and 1½ bovates in Cransley of the fee of Chokes; Ralf Meschin held 5 small virgates of the fee of Geddington; John le Bauld 1 great virgate; and Foliot (evidently the

¹ A facsimile of a plan of 'Dallison's manor house & close', made in 1598, is in the church.

² Sir Thomas succeeded his father as 2nd Lord Burghley in 1598, after he had parted with Cransley, and was created Earl of Exeter in 1615.

³ On 22 August 1708 he refers to a

visit to Mrs. Robinson of Cransley, where they 'were building a new front of five windows to the old part of the house', and on 20 May 1709 he mentions a man being killed by the falling of a wall, 'the second man killed in the new building'.

⁴ Robinson impaling a bend charged with 3 eagles, for Ernley.

⁵ Mr. Rose also altered the drive, and made the present road to Broughton, the road being formerly much closer to the house: *ex inf.* Major A. H. Thurburn.

⁶ *V.C.H. Northants.* i, 306a.

⁷ *Ibid.* 347b.

⁸ *Ibid.* 351a.

⁹ *Ibid.* 382b, 383a, q.v. for discussion of redistribution.

Robert Foliot, owner of the Peverel fee) 2½ hides and 1 small virgate of the fee of Huntingdon.

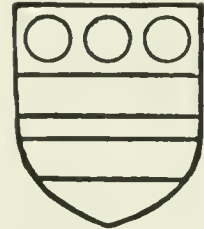
An inquiry held on 24 May 1247 as to homages and knight services held by Robert, advocate of Bethune, when he gave the land of Gayton to Robert de Gisnes mentions a knight's fee in Cransley held by William de Lisle,¹ to whom the services of William de Gorham, in Cransley and Flore, had been conveyed by fine in 1233.² In 1252 Baldwin de Betune sold Gayton (q.v.) to Ingelram, lord of Fienes, with all the homages and services of those who had held of Robert, advocate of Arras, lord of Bethune, or of Baldwin, Count of Gisnes. It was returned at an inquiry held in 1252, as to dues from the lands of Ingelram de Fiennes, that there was due from the fee of Chokes in Cransley 18d. for sheriff's aid, watch, view of frankpledge, and aid for the serjeant, and for castle guard at Northampton 10s.,³ the payment for which the service of one knight had been commuted. The heirs of Ingelram de Fiennes were holding this fee in Cransley in 1284;⁴ under them Roger de L'Isle;⁵ under Roger, William de Gorham; and under William de Gorham, Hugh son of Simon de Cransley. When in 1316 Thomas Wake was returned as holding this fee,⁶ the intermediate Lisle and Gorham lordships recorded in 1284 seem to have lapsed, as in 1343, at the death of William de Ros of Hamlake, Thomas Wake of Blisworth was returned as holding the fee of him in right of his wife,⁷ the daughter of Hugh de Cransley. William de Ros of Hamlake married Margery, sister and heir of Giles de Badlesmere, another of whose sisters married William Earl of Northampton, a descendant of Maud daughter of Ingelram de Fiennes,⁸ and it was probably to some connexion with the de Fiennes family that William de Ros owed this overlordship. At the death of Margery in 1363, she was holding this fee in dower as of Beauvoir Castle, and it passed from her to her son and heir Thomas de Ros.⁹

Members of the de Cransley family whose heiress married Thomas Wake had been under-tenants of this fee at an early date. Hugh de Cransley in 1166 was holding of Robert de Chokes one knight's fee, then held in dower by the wife of Walter Disel (possibly Hugh's mother).¹⁰ He had been succeeded before 1203 by Peter his son, between whom and Henry de Gorham (his superior lord evidently) a fine of the fee was levied in that year.¹¹ Hugh de Cransley presented to the church in 1226.¹² A certain Stephen de Cransley made a grant of lands to St. James's Abbey in Northampton,¹³ and a Sir Thomas de Cransley was reported in an inquiry as to rebels in 1265 as believed to be dead, after being at the

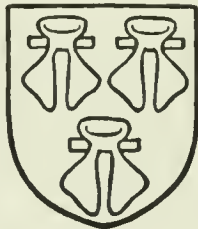
battle of Evesham with Sir Simon de Montfort and Sir Henry de Hastings. This Thomas had married Maud de Hardwick, the widow of Sir Bartholomew de Rakelinton, and had no land except of her dower.¹⁴ Simon, who presented to the church in 1277,¹⁵ and whose son Hugh was holding Cransley in 1284,¹⁶ may be assumed to have been lord of the manor. Either Hugh himself or a successor of that name was lord in 1312, when a grant was made to Hugh, lord of Cransley, and to Agnes his wife, and to Alice daughter of William de Wyleby, of the reversion of a messuage and land in Cransley which Stephen Elis and Stephen his son held.¹⁷ A fine was levied of the manor and advowson in 1312–13 between Hugh, lord of Cransley, and Reynold, parson of the church,¹⁸ who, as Master Reynold son of Hugh de Cransley, had received a grant of land from Lyna daughter of Robert le Somenur of Cransley, in 1287.¹⁹ Next year Hugh and Agnes received a grant from Geoffrey de Orlingbury of a croft called 'le Madecroft' in Cransley, and tillages at Wolemeresmede and Blyndyswyks by the rectory of the church, for their lives.²⁰



CRANSLEY. *Argent a chevron gules between three cranes azure.*



WAKE. *Or two bars gules with three roundels gules in the chief.*



ROS. *Gules three water-bougets argent.*

In 1316 Thomas Wake had succeeded Hugh. Elizabeth Cransley, wife of Sir Thomas Wake, had been first married to John son of Roger de Heigham, upon whom, and his heirs by her, her father Hugh de Cransley settled the manor and advowson in 1313–14. They had a son John, who married the daughter of Robert de Thorp, and a daughter Agnes; but this Agnes, and the two children of her brother, being carried off by the plague in 1348–9, together with their mother, at that date remarried to John de Gayton, the manor remained in the hands of Elizabeth, whose husband Sir Thomas Wake had been holding it in her right.²¹

In 1330 Thomas Wake of Deeping claimed free warren in his demesnes of Blisworth, Cransley, and Helpston under a charter of 1330.²²

Thomas Wake with his wife Elizabeth in 1340 settled the Cransley estate upon themselves for their lives, with remainder to Agnes and Elizabeth (*sic*), the daughters of Elizabeth by her first marriage, for their lives, with remainder to their son Hugh.²³ Hugh Wake

¹ *Cal. Inq. Misc.* i, no. 409. He granted 4½ knights' fees in Rowsham, Wingrave, Moulshoe (Bucks.), Cransley and Flore to Richard de Hanrede in 1266: *Cal. Pat.* 1258–66, p. 592.

² Feet of F. Div. Co. 17 Hen. III no. 48.

³ *Cal. Inq. Misc.* i, no. 149.

⁴ *Feud. Aids*, iv, 2.

⁵ *Cal. Pat.* 1258–66, p. 592.

⁶ *Feud. Aids*, iv, 21.

⁷ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* viii, 474.

⁸ G.E.C. *Peerage* (1st ed.), i, 373.

⁹ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 37 Edw. III (1st

nos.), 62. Beauvoir Castle came to the de Ros by the marriage of Maud daughter and heir of William de Albini with Robert grandfather of William de Ros. Through descent from the kings of Scotland the de Ros could claim descent from Judith, Countess of Huntingdon.

¹⁰ *Red Bk. of Exch.* i, 334.

¹¹ Feet of F. Northants. 4 John, no. 70; *Assize R.* (Northants. Rec. Soc.), nos. 141, 347, 387.

¹² Bridges, *Hist. of Northants.* ii, 91.

¹³ *Ibid.* i, 502.

¹⁴ *Cal. Inq. Misc.* i, 833, 843.

¹⁵ Bridges, *Hist. of Northants.* ii, 91.

¹⁶ *Feud. Aids*, iv, 2.

¹⁷ *Anct. D.*, C. 3396.

¹⁸ Feet of F. Northampton, 6 Edw. II, case 175, file 64, no. 137; 24 acres of wood in the manor were excepted for the grant.

¹⁹ *Anct. D.*, C. 3383.

²⁰ *Ibid.* C. 3384.

²¹ *Northamptonshire Families (F.C.H.)*, 319.

²² *Plac. de Quo Warr.* (Rec. Com.), 551; *Cal. Chart. R.* iv, 159.

²³ De Banco R. Hil. 7 Hen. VI, m. 138 d.

A HISTORY OF NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

died s.p., and Sir Thomas Wake, who on 20 February 1343 was returned as holding this knight's fee in Cransley, in right of his wife,¹ died in 1347.² Thomas son of Sir Thomas Wake released to John Pyel, citizen and merchant of London, on 29 March 1350 all his right in the manor and advowson of Cransley, with a mill and a plot called 'le Newemanere' and other lands in Cransley and Broughton which John had previously held of the grant of Elizabeth the mother and of Hugh the brother of Thomas. The witnesses included Walter Turk, then Mayor of London, and Adam de Bury and Ralf de Lenne, sheriffs.³ In 1355 John Pyel of Irlingborough, citizen of London, made a settlement of the manor and advowson of Cransley,⁴ which were still held under Thomas Wake of Blisworth, who was returned in 1363 as holding a fee in Cransley at the death of Margery, widow of William de Ros of Hamlake.⁵ In 1377 the manor, and the advowson of the church there, were apparently in the hands of Thomas de Melburn,⁶ but on 12 January 1380 they were alienated in mortmain by Simon Symeon and Peter Monslee, parson of Willoughby (co. Lincoln), to the dean and chapter of the new collegiate church of St. Mary's, Leicester, to celebrate divine service there daily for the soul of Henry, late Duke of Lancaster, and for the good estate of the said Simon and Peter while living, and their souls after death.⁷ In 1428 the New College of St. Mary, Leicester, paid for half a fee in Cransley formerly held by Thomas Wake,⁸ who in the following year quit-claimed lands in Cransley and the advowson to the college.⁹ These, which constituted the manor later known as *NEWARKS*, were in their hands at the Dissolution, the lands bringing them in £14 yearly.¹⁰

Certain mills and meadow land in Cransley were in 1528 granted by the College of St. Mary, Leicester (the College of the New Work), to Thomas Barnwell of Cransley for 51 years at a rent of 34s.;¹¹ and in 1545 Giles Poulton, senior, Giles Poulton, junior, and Elizabeth his wife conveyed their interest in the manor to Thomas Barnwell.¹² The latter was still tenant of the manor in 1549 when it, with a water-mill, a horse-mill, a messuage called the Melholme, view of frankpledge, &c., was granted to John Hasylywood of Maidwell.¹³

John Hasylywood died on 28 June 1550 leaving a wife Catherine, and a son and heir John, aged 28.¹⁴ John Hasylywood and Catherine his mother, who had married Thomas Claughton, alienated the manor, held in chief, to Thomas Barnwell in 1556.¹⁵

This manor remained in the hands of the Barnwells

until 1586, in which year the manors of Cransley, Newark, and Pultons were conveyed to William Cecil,¹⁶ esq., and Boniface Pickering, gent., by Edward Barnwell (probably the grandson of Thomas and son of Edward) and by his wife Anne, by Stephen Barnwell, William Allen, and Miles Barnwell,¹⁷ a separate conveyance of the property being made later by Roger Charnock and his wife Helen,¹⁸ possibly the remarried mother of Edward Barnwell.¹⁹

In 1595 Sir Thomas Cecil and his wife Dorothy with their sons William and Edward were dealing with all the four manors of Cransley, Newark, Marstons, and Pultons, and the rectory and advowson, which they conveyed to trustees²⁰ for sale to Alice Elkin, widow. This lady, who, according to Bridges, quoting from



ROBINSON. *Vert a chevron between three harts or with three lozenges gules on the chevron.*

Robinson documents, had been first married to Henry Robinson, and in her second widowhood married Thomas Owen, justice of the Common Pleas, divided the manor equally between her five children by Henry Robinson, two of whom, Alice Robinson (married to John Washburne of Knights Washburne)²¹ and Margaret (married to Sir John Bretts) retained their fifths, the remaining three-fifths being ultimately held by her son Sir Henry Robinson. In 1615 Sir John Bretts and his wife Margaret conveyed their fifth to Robert Riche and William Bretts,²² and Sir Robert Riche, Margaret Scott, widow, and Owen Scott conveyed it in 1627 to Francis Downes, senr., Roger Downes, and Francis Downes.²³ Alice Downes, widow (probably Alice Robinson, remarried), and John Washburne in 1652 were dealing with the manor of Pultons,²⁴ probably representing the Washburne, and possibly also the Brett, share of the Cransley estate, but no more is heard of this property. Sir Henry Robinson in 1629, in which year he was sheriff of the county, settled his three-fifths on Martha Sherington, widow of John Sherington, merchant of London, whom he married at Cransley on 31 August following. He died on 9 December 1637, leaving no issue by Martha, and was succeeded by his son by his first wife (Mary, daughter of Sir William Glover) Henry, aged 12.²⁵

The young lord of the manor, who espoused the Royalist cause, and suffered accordingly, died in 1665. His son Sir Henry Robinson married Susanna, daughter of the Rt. Hon. Sir John Ernle, Under-Treasurer of the Exchequer, and in 1681 a settlement of the whole of the manor and advowson in trust was made at their marriage.²⁶ The manor was then valued at £900 yearly, out of which an annuity of £20 for life was payable to



BARNWELL. *Party sable and azure a fesse dancetty between three crosslets fitchy or.*

¹ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* viii, 339.
² *V.C.H. Northants. Families*, 319.
³ *Cal. Close*, 1349-54, pp. 212, 216.
⁴ *Ibid.* 1354-60, p. 190.
⁵ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 37 Edw. III (1st nos.), 62.
⁶ *Anct. D.*, C. 3382.
⁷ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 3 Ric. II, no. 121;
Cal. Pat. 1377-81, p. 245.
⁸ *Feud. Aids*, iv, 33.
⁹ *Add. Ch.* 10652.
¹⁰ *Valor Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), iv, 170.
¹¹ *Add. Ch.* 10655.
¹² Feet of F. Northants. Mich. 37 Hen. VIII. According to Bridges in exchange

for the parsonage of Desborough.
¹³ *Pat. R.* 3 Edw. VI, pt. 10.
¹⁴ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), xci, 64.
¹⁵ *Pat. R.* 2 & 3 Ph. and M. pt. 9; *ibid.* 3 & 4 Ph. and M. pt. 4; Feet of F. Northants. Hil. 3 & 4 Ph. and M.
¹⁶ William was eldest son of Sir Thomas Cecil and subsequently 2nd Earl of Exeter.
¹⁷ Feet of F. Northants. Hil. 28 Eliz.
¹⁸ *Ibid.* Mich. 28 & 29 Eliz.
¹⁹ The inscriptions in Cransley Church given by Bridges, *Hist. of Northants.* ii, 92, record an Edward Barnwell, died 1557, and wife Helen. Another inscription shows that Edward, last Barnwell lord of these

manors, died in 1602. Leases made by Edward Barnwell of Cransley in 1585-6 were the subject of disputes when Sir Henry Robinson was lord: *Chan. Proc.* (Ser. 2), cccclxxv, 22.
²⁰ Feet of F. Northants. East. 37 Eliz.
²¹ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), cccxcvi, 132.
²² Feet of F. Northants. Mich. 13 Jas. I.
²³ *Ibid.* Trin. 3 Chas.
²⁴ *Ibid.* Mich. 1652.
²⁵ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), cccclxxxvii, 186.
²⁶ Feet of F. Northants. Trin. 34 Chas. II; *Recov. R.* Trin. 34 Chas. II, ro. 148.



CRANSLEY CHURCH, FROM THE NORTH-WEST

Charles Riche, £12 yearly to the vicarage of Cransley, and £8 yearly to the king; but Sir Henry was burdened with debt and, after various transactions for raising money, the manor was in 1702 put in the custody of his wife, Dame Susanna, after Sir Henry Robinson had been found a lunatic on 8 December 1701. An Act of Parliament was obtained in 1710 to vest the estate of Sir Henry Robinson in Cransley in trustees to enable them to make a settlement on the marriage of his son John,¹ who, after his father's death, was holding the manor, rectory, and advowson of Cransley in 1746.² His son, another John Robinson, died in 1791, when he was succeeded by John Capel Rose. He died in 1845 and his son William Somerset Rose in 1884. The latter's son William Robinson Rose was succeeded in 1889 by his brother Walter Wollaston Rose who sold the manor and advowson in 1905 to Major Arthur Hugh Thurnburn, the present owner.³

The lands in Cransley held of the royal manor of Rothwell in 1086 seem to be represented in part by *PULTON'S MANOR*. In 1230 Thomas de Braybrook granted to Philip de Kelmarsh land in Kelmarsh and a mill and 2½ virgates in Cransley.⁴ Philip's son Ralph married Mabel, daughter of Hugh son of Peter de Cransley,⁵ and in 1266 was holding 2½ virgates and a mill in Cransley with lands in Kelmarsh, Clipston, and Oxenden, all held of the king in chief of the soke of Geddington;⁶ and this property in Cransley was so held in 1284 by Simon de Kelmarsh,⁷ his son, who in 1329 claimed view of frankpledge in Kelmarsh, Clipston, and Cransley by prescription.⁸ Simon son of Ralph de Kelmarsh was returned at an inquisition held at Rothwell in 1337⁹ as having held at his death tenements in Cransley held of the manor of Geddington as of the ancient demesne of the king; in free marriage with Mabel his wife lands in Cransley held of Thomas Wake of Blisworth; and half a virgate of land, parcel of those which John de Verdun, kt., held in Holcote, Walgrave, and Cransley of the honor of Huntingdon as of the manor of Yardley: his heir being his son Simon. The third of the properties of which he then died seised evidently corresponded to the lands in Cransley held of the Countess Judith in 1086, and constituted the Manor of *WYLEYBY* or *WILLOUGHBY* in Cransley which in 1329 was in the hands of Simon de Cransley,¹⁰ who then claimed freedom from tolls, weyf, &c., from his tenants in Cransley, because these liberties had always belonged to a fifth part of the vill there known as Willoughby, which fifth part he held of Lawrence de Preston, who held of Lawrence son of John de Hastings, a minor and in ward to the King. He claimed view of frankpledge because this had always been held with this fifth part called Willoughby, when William de Willoughby or Wyleby and Margery his wife, being seised thereof in right of Margery, had enfeoffed of the same Ivo Fitzwaryn. Ivo Fitzwaryn had granted it to Peter his brother, who had then enfeoffed in it Simon de Hanington, from whom it

descended to his son and heir Ralph, by whose enfeoffment Simon de Cransley was then holding.

These properties descended with the manor of Kelmarsh, with which they were in 1498 held by William Pulton at his death, as lands and tenements with a water-mill in Cransley, held of the manor of Geddington in burgage and worth £6 11s. 4d.; another messuage in Cransley held of the New College, Leicester, by knight service and worth 20s.; and a third part of a pasture with a grange called Sundurlond held of Maurice Osborn by knight service, and worth 20s. William Pulton's heir was his son Giles, upon whom and his wife Katharine settlement had been made in 1493 by William and his wife Emma.¹¹

A manor of *MARSTONS*, later known as *DALISON'S*, occurs in the 15th century. In 1474 Robert Tanfield of Gayton granted the manor of Merston or Marston in Cransley, held of the Duke of Buckingham, to William Tanfield, who bequeathed it to his wife Anne for life, and died on 26 November 1487, his heir being his kinsman Robert son of Robert Tanfield, late of Everton (Hunts.).¹² In 1489 Anthony Tanfield, son of Robert, released to Edward Goldesborough, baron of the Exchequer, and others, all his right in the lands in Cransley which he lately had by bequest from William Tanfield, his uncle, for life.¹³ This manor next appears in the hands of George Dalison, who in 1514 settled it on his son Edward and his wife Elizabeth, and died on 28 June 1524, seised of the manor, which then passed to his grandson Thomas, Edward and Elizabeth being already dead.¹⁴ Thomas Dalison and Joan his wife in 1540 conveyed it to John Lane and William Hypwell,¹⁵ but in 1585 it was still in the hands of the Dalison family, and was conveyed to Sir Thomas Cecil by Edward Dalison and his wife Anne, and Robert Dalison, brother and heir of Edward Dalison.¹⁶ After this date it descended with the other Cransley manors.

Tenements in Cransley held of the queen in chief by knight service and in the occupation of John Dexter and afterwards of Edward Longton, were held by Richard Warner at his death in 1570.¹⁷

The church of *ST. ANDREW* consists *CHURCH* of chancel, 31 ft. 6 in. by 15 ft. 6 in.; clerestoried nave, 52 ft. by 16 ft.; north aisle, 11 ft. wide; south aisle, 15 ft. wide; south porch, and west tower and spire, 10 ft. 6 in. square, all these measurements being internal. There was formerly a porch on the north side also.¹⁸ The west end of the north aisle is screened off as a vestry and the organ is at the east end.

The first church on the site seems to have been a 12th-century aisleless building of which only the north-west angle remains on the north side of the tower, but this early structure was entirely rebuilt towards the end of the 13th century, beginning with the chancel c. 1290. The work was probably continued over a period of some years, but completed early in the 14th century.

¹ Priv. Stat. 9 Anne, cap. 28.

² Recov. R. Trin. 18 & 19 Geo. II, ro. 284.

³ Information from Major A. H. Thurnburn. In 1812 John George Ogilvie and his wife Letitia (presumably a Robinson co-heiress) dealt with a moiety of the manor: Recov. R. East. 52 Geo. III, ro. 29.

⁴ Feet of F. Northants. 15 Hen. III.

⁵ Assize R. 619, m. 24.

⁶ Cal. Inq. p.m. i, 652.

⁷ Feud. Aids, iv, 2.

⁸ Plac. de Quo Warr. (Rec. Com.), 542-3.

⁹ Cal. Inq. p.m. viii, 135.

¹⁰ Plac. de Quo Warr. (Rec. Com.), 532.

¹¹ Cal. Inq. p.m. Hen. VII, ii, no. 296.

¹² Ibid. i, 429. The manor of Rothwell was held by the Duke of Buckingham, and the overlordship was probably ascribed to that manor.

¹³ Anct. D., C. 3242.

¹⁴ Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), xlv, 109.

¹⁵ Recov. R. East. 31 Hen. VIII, ro. 101; Feet of F. Northants. East. 31 Hen. VIII.

¹⁶ Ibid. Trin. 37 Eliz.

¹⁷ Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), cclxxv, 206.

¹⁸ Brandon in 1848 stated that the north porch was destroyed 'about fifty years ago' and with it probably one of the windows: *Parish Churches, Northants.*

A HISTORY OF NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

In the first half of the 15th century¹ the tower and clerestory were added, the chancel walls heightened, and new windows inserted. The greater width of the south aisle suggests that it may have been rebuilt at the same time, but if so the old masonry, doorway, and the windows on either side were re-used and the porch re-erected.² The building was restored in 1870 and refloored with wood blocks on concrete in 1908.

With the exception of the tower the building is of rubble, plastered internally, and has plain parapets to chancel, clerestory, and aisles, with low-pitched leaded roofs.³ The tower is faced with ashlar: the porch has a slated eaved roof.

The chancel has a pointed east window of four trefoiled lights with modern reticulated tracery and is divided into two bays, in each of which, north and south, is a 15th-century four-centred window of three cinquefoiled lights. In the north wall is a 13th-century continuous-moulded priest's doorway,⁴ and on the south side, below the easternmost window, a rectangular aumbry, restored piscina with fluted bowl, and triple sedilia: the seats are on the same level below pointed arches on moulded shafts with capitals and bases. At the west end of each wall is a blocked low-side window, that on the north side having a segmental rear arch, the other a flat lintel.⁵ Below the easternmost window in the north wall is a low moulded tomb recess, which probably was used also as the Easter Sepulchre:⁶ the wall here seems to have suffered some disturbance as though the tomb had blocked an earlier doorway, and the scroll string-course which runs round the chancel at sill level is here omitted. This string is continued on the east wall of the north aisle, round the diagonal angle buttress and along the north wall of the aisle as far as the north doorway. The well-proportioned chancel arch is of two chamfered orders, with hood-mould on each side, springing from triple attached shafts with moulded capitals and bases.

The nave arcades are of four bays with pointed arches of two chamfered orders and hood-moulds with head-stops, springing from octagonal piers with moulded capitals and bases and from responds of like character. On the north side the capitals have a species of early ball-flower ornament in the hollow, and both arcades have been a good deal restored. The almost continuous clerestory of six two-light cinquefoiled windows on each side and the absence of coloured glass make the interior of the building exceedingly light, and its pleasing regularity and excellent proportions give it eminence amongst the smaller churches of its type.

The late-13th-century window of the south aisle is of three trefoiled lights with a trefoiled circle in the head and a pointed trefoil over each of the side lights, and on each side of the south doorway is a contemporary two-light window with forked mullion. All the other windows of the aisles are 15th-century insertions similar

to those in the chancel, except that at the west end of the north aisle which is of two lights. In the usual position at the east end of the south aisle is a plain 13th-century piscina with fluted bowl, and farther west a low tomb recess with roll-edge moulding. The south doorway is of two continuous orders, the outer wave-moulded, and the hood-mould has notch ends. The outer doorway of the porch is of two hollow-chamfered orders on the outer face, the inner on half-octagonal responds with moulded capitals and bases. The porch has a coped gable with cusped apex-stone and modern cross, and circular quatrefoiled openings in the side walls. Built into the walls are a 13th-century coffin-lid, a bit of 14th-century canopy work, and two other fragments.

The north doorway was blocked when the porch was removed, and externally all traces of it have been effaced. The north-east diagonal buttress of the aisle has a traceried gabled head, above which it weathers back in a short second stage.⁷

The nave has a good 15th-century oak roof of six bays, with moulded principals and wall-pieces, embattled wall-plates, and angel corbels. The aisle roofs are of the same type with angel corbels against the outer walls only, but with carved bosses in addition.⁸ A spout-head on the north clerestory is dated 1702, and one on the south side 'W. O., 1713'.

The tower is of four stages with clasping angle buttresses carried up as pinnacles, moulded plinth, and battlemented parapets. Its axis has a slight deviation to the south, and the lofty arch to the nave is of three continuous chamfered orders, stopped about 4 ft. above the floor. There is a vice in the south-west angle, and recesses in the north and south walls inside. The buttresses have an additional string below the pinnacles and on the north and south sides there is a band of quatrefoils beneath the parapet. The west doorway has a rectangular hood-mould and spandrels and over it in the second stage is a pointed window of three cinquefoiled lights and vertical tracery. On the north and south the walls are blank in the lower stages. The double bell-chamber windows are of two transomed lights with quatrefoil in the head, and the spire has plain angles and two tiers of lights in the cardinal faces. The top of the spire was rebuilt in 1927.⁹

The font in use dates from 1887, but there is an 18th-century baluster font¹⁰ with spiral flutings and stone cover in the south aisle. The pulpit and seating are modern.

At the east end of the south aisle, against the wall, is a blue stone slab with brasses of Edward Dalyson (d. 1515) and Elizabeth his wife, with inscription and shields of arms in three of the corners: the fourth shield and the figure of a child are missing. Above this on the wall is a small marble monument with kneeling brass figures of Edward Dallison (d. 1589) and Ann Snagge,

¹ There was a bequest of 6s. 8d. in 1537 to the steeple of Cransley Church 'when the time shall come that it shall be new made': *Arch. Jour.* lviii, 115. But the tower is apparently a century earlier.

² It is, however, possible that the early building had a south transeptal chapel, which being extended westward at the rebuilding gave a greater width to the south aisle.

³ The chancel roof is covered with copper.

⁴ The position of the church south-west of the manor-house and village accounts for the doorway being on this side.

⁵ *Assoc. Arch. Soc. Reports*, xxix, 399. The position of the south window is shown externally by the raising of the string-course: on the north the opening was below the string. The windows differ in size, that on the north measuring internally 4 ft. 5 in. by 3 ft. 6 in., the other 3 ft. 10 in. by 3 ft.

⁶ In 1516 Thomas Hurst bequeathed '10 ewe sheep to the preparing & furnishing of the sepulchre': *Arch. Jour.* lxx, 229.

⁷ The north-west buttress is of two similar unequal stages, but has no gable.

⁸ The roofs seem to have been left the

natural tint of the oak with a little painting in white, red, and black in the mouldings, bosses, and spandrels: *Assoc. Arch. Soc. Reports*, x, 89.

⁹ The top nine courses only were rebuilt: the old weathercock by T. Eayre of Kettering 1759, is now in the church; on the tail of the cock is stamped 'W. Henson repute me on & repaired this steeple June 29, 1839', and later 'C. Henson repaired this steeple 1869'.

¹⁰ It was cast out in 1887, but was recently restored to the church from the vicarage garden.

his wife, and in the recess of the east window a brass plate in memory of Edward Barnwell (d. 1602), 'sometyme Lord of y^e manners of Newarkes mannor and Pultons mannor here in Cranesley', and his two wives Eleanor Brooke and Ann Spencer: his arms are on a separate plate. A floor-slab close by bears the figure of a skeleton and border inscription to Edward Barnwell (d. 1557) and Helen his wife.

There is a little painted glass in the south-east window of the aisle: (i) arms of Ros;¹ (ii) four cranes separately leaded, no doubt from a shield of the arms of De Cransley; (iii) a piece of yellow glass with three fishes in pale.

There is a mutilated stone coffin in the south aisle, and also a late-17th-century parish chest with three locks. At the east end of the south aisle is an 18th-century communion table with turned legs.

There is a ring of six bells by Matthew and Henry Bagley of Chacombe, 1683.²

The plate consists of a silver cup and cover paten of 1618, a flagon by John Fawdrey 1707, a bread-holder by Nat Gullion 1723, a chalice and paten of 1884, and a spoon of 1875.³

The registers before 1812 are as follows: (i) all entries 1561-1714, but irregular after 1683;⁴ (ii) baptisms 1715-96, marriages 1715-64, burials 1715-97; (iii) marriages 1759-1800; (iv) baptisms and burials 1797-1812; (v) marriages 1801-12.

The church was valued at £8 in *ADVOWSON* 1291.⁵ The Cransleys and afterwards the Wakes held the advowson with their manor (q.v.) until the appropriation of the advowson with this manor to St. Mary's College, Leicester, in 1381.⁶ The rectory in 1535 was returned as worth £18, the vicarage as £8 yearly.⁷ After the Dissolution the rectory and advowson were annexed to the Duchy of Lancaster, and on 26 May 1579 granted to Edward

Dalison for 21 years.⁸ On 12 August 1591 they were granted by the Queen to Edward Downing and Roger Rante,⁹ and had been acquired by Sir Thomas Cecil before 1595, being conveyed with Dalison's manor by the Cecils to Thomas Pagett, John Brett, and John Dyxson.¹⁰ Since that date the advowson has continued to be held with the manor.

A petition was presented in 1642 for settlement of a competent allowance on the vicarage, which the inhabitants represented had only a yearly stipend of £8 from the lords of the manor; and it was stated that the executors having neglected to repair the vicarage house, though a legacy for the purpose had been left by Sir Henry Robinson about four years before, and certain of the holders of the manor, which was held in five parts, refusing to contribute their shares for the allowance of the vicarage, the inhabitants had been left without a vicar.¹¹

Mr. Holled in 1650 gave £10, the *CHARITIES* interest to be distributed monthly in 2d. loaves.

John Warner in 1729 gave a rent-charge of 10s. to be distributed in bread.

In respect of these two charities a rent-charge of £1 0s. 2d. is paid out of two cottages on the Cransley Estate belonging to Major Thurburn. The charge is distributed monthly in 2d. loaves to 11 poor widows or widowers for 11 months in the year.

The school was founded in 1824 by the Rev. G. Anderson, the vicar, who endowed it with a rent-charge of £26 yearly. The site for new buildings was given in 1872 by the lord of the manor, W. Somerset Rose, esq., and these were erected by contributions from himself and others, the rent-charge being transferred to the new school and the old school-house being retained as a residence for the schoolmistress. The new buildings were enlarged in 1905 for 67 children.

FAXTON

Fextone, Foxton (xi cent.); Fauxston (xiv cent.).

Faxton lies to the east of Lamport and of the road from Northampton to Market Harborough, its eastern portion being formed by Mawsley hamlet. It lies high for a Northamptonshire parish, much of the ground being about 400 ft. The Nicolls family at one time lived here in what Bridges describes as 'an antient manor-house'. In his day there was under a stone dial over the gate this inscription:

Anno primo (MDCXXV) Caroli primi
Ne dispar quid displiceat
Nam trium Consanguineorum tribus ac regnantibus
Hoc exiguum opus est.

and on the other side of the gate fronting the house:

Tres successivi possessores
Anna Augustinus et Franciscus
Tribus Principibus invicem succedentibus
Elizabetha Jacobo & Carolo.

Perhaps the Hall Ponds to the north of the church

indicate the spot near which this stood. Soldiers of Charles I were quartered at Faxton the night before the battle of Naseby.¹²

The Almshouses at a little distance north-east of the church were erected by the last Nicolls heiresses. Faxton Lodge lies to the south of the parish, where there are also brickworks.

To the north-west is Short Wood, and at the extreme north is Stonegrove Spinney. A very winding brook forms the eastern boundary of the parish.

The parish contains 1,851 acres, principally pasture land. There is no village, and the population, which in 1801 was 54, in 1921 was only 37. Since 1935 Faxton has been included in Lamport parish.

FAXTON Manor was in Saxon times *MANOR* royal demesne, and was entered among the King's lands in Mawsley Hundred in the Domesday Survey. There were 2 hides there, and Wold and Walgrave (2 hides and 3½ virgates of land) belonged to this manor.¹³ In the 12th century the

¹ Argent 3 water-bougets sable and a label of 5 points gules; a variant of Ros.

² North, *Ch. Bells of Northants.* 236, where the inscriptions are given. The treble is repaired with bands which cover part of the inscription. The bells were rehung by Taylor in 1870.

³ Markham, *Ch. Plate of Northants.* 85.

⁴ 'There was no regular register kept in this parish from 1683 to this present year 1715, which neglect I endeavoured to make emends for by writing in the old register all the christenings, marriages & burials that I could prevail with my parishioners to send me: Ch. Manning, vicar': note in Register.

⁵ *Tax. Eccl. (Rec. Com.)*, 39.

⁶ *Anct. D., C.* 3372.

⁷ *Valor Eccl. (Rec. Com.)*, iv, 170.

⁸ *Pat. R.* 33 Eliz. pt. 13.

⁹ *Ibid.*

¹⁰ Feet of F. Northants. East. 37 Eliz.

¹¹ *Hist. MSS. Com. Rep.* v, 66.

¹² Bridges, *Hist. of Northants.* ii, 92.

¹³ *V.C.H. Northants.* i, 306.

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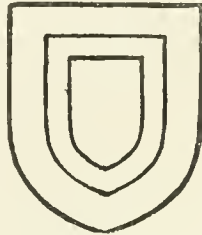
2 hides above recorded, together with half a hide, taken presumably out of either Wold or Walgrave, were returned as held of the fee of Balliol.¹ In Moulton, in the Hundred of Spelhoe, Guy de Balliol was holding 1½ hides and 1 small virgate of the fee of Faxton;² while in Walgrave Henry de Tracy was holding 3 virgates of the socage of Faxton.³ Guy's descendant John de Balliol by his marriage to Devorgild, elder sister and co-heir to John le Scot, Earl of Chester and Huntingdon, became possessed of part of the honor of Huntingdon in addition to the Balliol fee;⁴ and among his fees in 1236 and 1242 were four fees which Adam de Periton held in Faxton, Walgrave, and Moulton.⁵

Ingelram de Dumart about 1170 granted to Robert Duredent his nephew the messuage in Faxton which had belonged to Walter de Balliol his uncle, and a fourth part of Faxton with a *quarterium* in Mawsley, Walgrave, and Moulton, for the service of one knight,⁶ Ingelram died in 1185 and Egelin de Dumart, son of his sister Emma, in 1201-2 conveyed to Thomas de Periton a knight's fee in Faxton and land in Northumberland and Warwickshire.⁷ This Thomas was Egelin's nephew and succeeded him in 1219, himself dying in 1227, leaving a son Adam.⁸

Adam de Periton, who appears to have been holding under John de Balliol practically the whole of Faxton, was apparently identical with the Adam de Faxton who in 1229 was in conflict with the Prior of St. Frideswide about customs and services in Moulton.⁹ In 1266 Adam de Periton died seized of the manor of Faxton (with rents of the free tenants of Moulton and Walgrave), which he was holding of Sir John de Balliol for 4 knights' fees and 4 marks rent. His heirs were Robert, son of Sir William de Kaynes and of Adam's eldest daughter; Isabel, late the wife of Sir Robert de Welles, another daughter; and Katharine, wife of John Paynel, a third daughter.¹⁰ Isabel, the widow of Robert de Welles, married as her second husband William de Vescy, who in 1284 was holding 2 knights' fees in Faxton, Mawsley, and Walgrave of John de Balliol (afterwards King of Scotland).¹¹ In 1288-9 William de Vescy and his wife Isabel conveyed the manor of Faxton to John de Vescy, their son, presumably in view of his marriage with Clemence, a kinswoman of Queen Eleanor.¹² In August 1290 William de Vescy gave the Queen an undertaking to ensure the payment of Clemence's dower.¹³ Clemence de Vescy was holding a third of the manor of Faxton in dower after the death of Isabel in 1314, worth £12 19s. 9½d. yearly.¹⁴ She died abroad in 1344,¹⁵ having previously granted her third of the manor for her life for £8 yearly

to Adam de Welles who was then holding the remaining two thirds, and to whom the reversion of her third belonged.¹⁶

Isabel de Periton's heir by her first husband, Sir William de Welles, was their son Adam, who died in 1311 before his mother. He left a widow Joan.¹⁷ The custody of lands in Faxton and elsewhere belonging to Adam de Welles, and the marriage of his son and heir Robert, aged 16 at his father's death, was assigned to Gilbert de Clare, Earl of Gloucester and Hertford, on 8 December 1311;¹⁸ and on 7 April 1313 this wardship was sold by Gilbert to Richard le Vavassour and others.¹⁹ Isabel de Vescy died in 1314, when she was returned as holding two parts of the manor of Faxton of John of Brittany, Earl of Richmond, to whom, in return for his services in Scotland, John Balliol's lands had been granted, by service of 2 knights' fees.²⁰ She had granted an annuity of £20 out of the manor to her daughters Cecily and Aline de Welles: and her heir was her grandson Robert, aged 19 and in the king's wardship. Robert, son of Adam de Welles, did not long survive his grandmother, but after marrying Maud widow of Robert de Clifford (who in her second widowhood was found heir to her nephew Thomas, only son and heir of Richard de Clare, Lord de Clare), he died s.p. in 1320, holding two parts of the manor of Faxton of the Earl of Richmond and Brittany.²¹ His estate included a chief messuage with buildings in ruins, and two parts of a windmill. He was succeeded by his brother Adam, aged 16,²² who came into possession of the whole at the death of Clemence de Vescy as above stated. He died on 28 February 1345, his son and heir, John being then aged 12. The manor was then held of the Countess of Pembroke as of her manor of Fotheringhay as two knights' fees,²³ the Balliol lands held by John of Brittany at his death s.p. in 1333 having been granted to her. John de Welles died on 11 October 1361, leaving a son and heir aged 11, also named John. His widow Maud survived, the manor being held by her of the Earl of Pembroke, a ward of the king.²⁴ On her death in 1389 her son John succeeded her at Faxton.²⁵ He had seen considerable service in France and Scotland since making proof of his age in 1373, in which year he was knighted. In 1388 he was summoned to take his place in Parliament and reproved for previous excuses.²⁶ In 1395, according to Dugdale (quoting Stow), he was the hero of a picturesque episode. Having been sent ambassador into Scotland, he was present at a banquet where the Scots and English fell to 'discoursing of arms', and he threw down the challenge: 'Let words have no place: if ye know not the chivalry and valiant deeds of Englishmen, appoint



BALLIOL. *Gules a voided scutcheon argent.*



WELLES. *Or a lion sable with a forked tail.*

¹ *V.C.H. Northants*, i, 380.

² *Ibid.* 381.

³ *Ibid.* where the redistribution of lands in Faxton, Wold, and Walgrave is discussed. It seems probable that the 3 virgates of Henry de Tracy were ultimately absorbed into the Balliol fee with Faxton.

⁴ *G.E.C. Peerage* (2nd ed.), iii, 169.

⁵ *Bk. of Fees*, 502, 941.

⁶ *Harl. Ch.* 49 F. 53.

⁷ *Feet of F. Div. Co. temp. John*, no.

21.

⁸ See Craster, 'Descent of the Manor

of Ellington': *Arch. Æliana*, 4th Ser. v, 1-12.

⁹ *Cal. Close*, 1227-31, p. 245.

¹⁰ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* i, 633.

¹¹ *Feud. Aids*, iv, 2.

¹² *Feet of F. Northants*. 17 Edw. I, no. 258.

¹³ *Cal. Close*, 1288-96, p. 144.

¹⁴ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* v, 526.

¹⁵ *Ibid.* viii, 528.

¹⁶ *Ibid.*

¹⁷ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* v, 352.

¹⁸ *Cal. Pat.* 1307-13, p. 509.

¹⁹ *Ibid.* 560.

²⁰ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* v, 526; *ibid.* 535.

²¹ *Ibid.* viii, 528.

²² *Ibid.*

²³ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* viii, 597.

²⁴ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 35 Edw. III, pt. 2 (1st nos.), 81.

²⁵ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* (Rec. Com.), iii, 105. He had seisin of the manor of Skendelby in that year (*Cal. Close*, 1385-9, p. 577) and did homage for all his father's lands.

²⁶ *Ibid.* 478.

me a day and place when ye list, and ye shall have experience.' David, Earl of Crawford, accepted, and trial of battle took place on St. George's day on London Bridge, where Lord Welles was in the third course thrown to the ground.¹ In July 1417 he settled the manor on his grandson, Lionel, son of his deceased son Eudes, and on Joan daughter of Robert Waterton, later his wife, and died on 26 August 1421.² Lionel, Lord Welles, then aged 15, succeeded him in the manor, then still held of the manor of Fotheringhay (q.v.), which had passed into the hands of the Dukes of York.³ He married, as his second wife, Margaret, widow of John Beaufort, Duke of Somerset. At his death on the field of Towton, on Palm Sunday 1461, his heir was his son by his first wife, Sir Richard Welles, who through his marriage with Joan daughter and heir of Robert, Lord Willoughby, was Lord Welles and Willoughby.⁴ Lionel, Lord Welles, was included in the act of attainder of 1461, but in 1468 when Richard obtained restitution of his father's possessions, then in the hands of Margaret, Duchess of Somerset,⁵ Faxton was excepted.⁶ When Richard Nevile, Earl of Warwick, raised his standard for the Lancastrian cause in Lincolnshire in 1469, Sir Robert Welles, son and heir of Lord Richard, joined him, with the result that both father and son were beheaded. Faxton was still at that date held by Margaret, Duchess of Somerset, and on 12 March 1475 the reversion of the manor after her death was granted to the King's son Richard, Duke of York.⁷ On 21 August 1484 it was in the hands of Richard III, who made a grant of the manor, advowson, mills, &c., to Sir Edward Brampton,⁸ but John, son of Richard, Lord Welles, by Margaret, Duchess of Somerset, on the accession of Henry VII at once obtained the reversal of the attainder and restitution of the estates.⁹ He was in possession of Faxton on 28 June 1486, when a field called Mawsley field, of which Robert Kynnesman was seised, was returned as held of Sir John, Lord Welles, as of his manor of Faxton.¹⁰ He married in 1487 Cecily, sister of Elizabeth, the Queen Consort, and third daughter of Edward IV. John, then Viscount Welles, bequeathed all his lands to his wife and died in 1499, leaving an only daughter Anne, who seems to have died s.p.¹¹ His wife married as her second husband Thomas Kyme, and died on 24 August 1507, when Faxton passed to the representatives of the daughters of Lionel, Lord Welles, empowered by Act of Parliament to hold his lands in pourparty after the death of Cecily.¹² By this Act, passed in 1503, part of the lands of the late viscount, in which Faxton proves to have been included, were to be held in co-parcenary by Sir Robert Dymock, and Sir Thomas Lawrence, cousins and heirs of the Lords Welles, and Katharine, wife of Robert Tempest, one of the daughters and heirs of Lionel, Lord Welles.

This partition resulted in the manor being much subdivided during the next century.

Eleanor, the eldest daughter and co-heir of Lionel, Lord Welles, married, as his third wife, Thomas, Lord Hoo and Hastings, and left three daughters: Eleanor, married to Sir James Carew of Bedington, whose great-grandson Francis Carew had a tenth¹³ of the manor in 1555¹⁴ and still held in 1575;¹⁵ Anne, married to Sir Roger Copley; and Elizabeth, married to Sir John Devenish.¹⁶ After the death of Thomas, Lord Hoo and Hastings, his widow Eleanor married James Lawrence,¹⁷ who was the father of Sir Thomas Lawrence, mentioned in the Act. The son of Elizabeth and of Sir John Devenish (of Hellingly in Sussex) was Richard Devenish, who with his son and heir Thomas¹⁸ was dealing with a third part of a third part of the manor of Faxton in 1532.¹⁹ In 1534 one whole third was in the hands of Sir Roger Copley (husband of Eleanor's daughter Anne), who settled it on himself and his wife Elizabeth and their heirs male, with remainder to his daughters Mary Shurley, widow, Brigit and Catherine Copley.²⁰

Robert Tempest was the second husband of Katharine, daughter of Lionel, Lord Welles. Her first husband was Sir Thomas de la Launde,²¹ of Horbling, executed at Grantham, 1470, by whom she had two daughters and co-heirs, Joan, married to William Denton of Denton, and Margaret, wife of Thomas Berkeley.²² By Robert Tempest she had a son John, who died 1509, leaving two daughters and co-heirs, Margaret, who seems to have died in infancy, and Anne who married Sir Edward Bullen, uncle to King Henry VIII's wife.²³ Katharine's grandson Thomas, the son of William Denton,²⁴ was holding the manor of Faxton in 1536,²⁵ and in 1541 conveyed one-ninth of it to Joseph Saunders,²⁶ who in 1544 died seised of this ninth, held of the king by knight service, leaving an infant son Mark.²⁷ A ninth held by Katharine's other grandchild Anne Tempest and her husband Edward Bullen was dealt with by them in 1549;²⁸ and, in 1552, Thomas Devenish, with his son and heir William, sold to Anthony Pelham, of Mayfield in Sussex, their reversion of the ninth part of Faxton Manor, of which Edward Bullen and Dame Alice Radclyff, widow, formerly wife of Richard Devenish, were seised for life.²⁹ The Copley ninth was in 1566 conveyed by Thomas Copley and his wife Katharine to Sir Edward Dymock,³⁰ who had inherited one third of the manor from his grandmother Margaret, the third daughter of Lionel, Lord Welles, and Sir Thomas Dymock (beheaded with Lords Richard and Robert Welles), the parents of Sir Robert Dymock mentioned in the Act of 1503.

Another share was inherited from Katharine Tempest, the daughter and co-heir of Lionel, Lord Welles, by Margaret, the daughter and co-heir of Katharine by

¹ Dugdale, *Baronage of England*, i, 11.

² Chan. Inq. p.m. 9 Hen. V, no. 61; see also Harl. Ch. 57 C. 17.

³ Chan. Inq. p.m. 6 Hen. V, no. 61.

⁴ Ibid. 1 Edw. IV, no. 32; Dugdale, *Baronage*, i, 12.

⁵ Cal. Pat. 1461-7, p. 468.

⁶ Close R. 8 Edw. IV, m. 27.

⁷ Cal. Pat. 1467-77, p. 508.

⁸ Ibid. 1476-85, p. 479.

⁹ Rot. Parl. vi, 286 a, 287 a.

¹⁰ Cal. Inq. p.m. Hen. VII, i, 9.

¹¹ Dugdale, *Baronage*, ii, 13.

¹² *Rolls of Parlt.* (Rec. Com.), vi, 542-4.

¹³ Apparently an error for 'a ninth'.

¹⁴ Pat. R., Mary, pt. 8. This share probably passed through the Saunders to the Morgans (see below).

¹⁵ Add. Ch. 24167.

¹⁶ *Baronage*, ii, 233. According to the Lincolnshire Pedigrees Elizabeth had been previously married to Thomas Massingberd; Maddison, *Lincs. Ped.* (Harl. Soc.), ii, 654.

¹⁷ G.E.C. *Peerage* (1st ed.), iv, 253.

¹⁸ *Visit. of Sussex* (Harl. Soc.), 50.

¹⁹ Feet of F. Div. Co. Mich. 24 Hen. VII; cf. *ibid.* Northants. Mich. 6 Edw. VI.

²⁰ Ibid. Mich. 26 Hen. VIII.

²¹ The de la Laundes and Kymes were

connected by marriage. See Maddison, *Lincs. Ped.* (Harl. Soc.), i, 293.

²² Ibid. iii, 954.

²³ Ibid.

²⁴ Ibid. i, 293.

²⁵ Recov. R. East. 28 Hen. VIII, ro. 100.

²⁶ Feet of F. Northants. Mich. 33 Hen. VIII.

²⁷ Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), lxxiii, 276.

²⁸ Feet of F. Northants. East. 3 Edw. VI.

²⁹ Com. Pleas. Deeds Enr. Mich. 6 Edw. VI, m. 4.

³⁰ Feet of F. Div. Co. East. 8 Eliz.; Pat. R. 8 Eliz. pt. 9.

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her first husband, Thomas de la Launde. Margaret, marrying Sir Thomas Berkeley of Wymondham, left a son and heir Maurice, whose son and heir John died s.p.; his share then passed to his sister Elizabeth, who married Robert Pakenham, Clerk of the Green Cloth.¹ Robert died on 30 August 1552, and Elizabeth in the same year settled the manor on her son Robert Pakenham, and afterwards married Robert Lyvesey, of Tooting Bec, Surrey. Her son Robert Pakenham succeeded her at her death on 24 October 1573.²

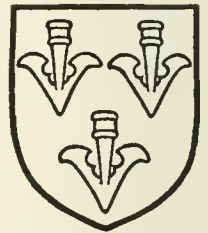
The Devenish share which had been acquired by Anthony Pelham was in 1577 conveyed by his son Herbert Pelham³ to Thomas Morgan,⁴ who with his wife Mary was dealing with two-ninths of the manor in 1578.⁵ It seems possible that some additional portion of the manor had passed into Saunders hands as early as 1560, and before 1578 this also had passed to Thomas Morgan.

The ninth acquired by Joseph Saunders from Edward Bullen had passed at the death of Joseph's son Mark in 1563, before his second birthday, to Joseph's daughter Anne, then married to Philip Hanard, by whom it was conveyed to Sir Edward Saunders,⁶ Chief Baron of the Exchequer, in 1566.⁷ Joseph Saunders evidently belonged to the family from which Sir Christopher Hatton's mother came.⁸ Sir Edward died on 12 November 1575, when his heir was his daughter Mary, wife of Thomas Morgan.⁹ Thomas was the son of Francis Morgan, judge of the King's Bench in Queen Mary's reign, from whom he inherited a moiety of Newbold, and brother of Anthony Morgan of Heyford (q.v.). His father-in-law, Sir Edward Saunders, was apparently a brother of Francis Saunders of Welford who married as his first wife Elizabeth, daughter of George Carew, by whom he had two sons, Edward Saunders of Brixworth, and Francis. William (his son by his second wife, Eleanor Chaloner), who succeeded him at Welford,¹⁰ also married a Morgan. The manor was the subject of various transactions between these families in the ensuing years, and in 1583 six ninths of the manor were in the hands of Edward Saunders,¹¹ of Brixworth. They were conveyed by him to Richard Purefey,¹² who was returned with Francis Nicolls at a court baron for Orlingbury Hundred held on 4 April 1586, as owing suit of court for their joint purchase of Faxton Manor from Thomas Morgan.¹³ But in 1587 the Privy Council wrote that Richard Purefey of Faxton had received great sums of money from one John Byrd of London for purchasing the manor of Faxton, and undertaken to pay a rent-charge of £100 out of the manor to the said John Byrd, whom he now required to transfer his interest in the same to a stranger, and Thomas Morgan was ordered to make no conveyance of his interest in the manor to a stranger until the matter had been settled in the Star Chamber,¹⁴ and apparently the sale to Francis Nicolls was not then completed. In 1586 a fresh conveyance of six ninths of the manor was made by William Saunders to Richard

Purefey,¹⁵ and the whole manor had in 1596 come into the possession of Thomas Morgan and his wife Mary.¹⁶

On 12 January 1599 Thomas Morgan made a settlement of the manors of Heyford, Faxton, and half of Newbold on his wife Mary and on Anthony Morgan of Aynho, his brother and heir apparent, upon the occasion of the marriage of Anthony Morgan of Llanfihangel *alias* Michael's Church, co. Monmouth (afterwards of Church Over, co. Warwick) with Brigit, daughter of the first said Anthony, with contingent remainders in default of issue male to Francis Morgan of Kingsthorpe; to Nicholas, brother of the said Francis; to Thomas Morgan, citizen and grocer of London, son and heir of John Morgan; to Francis, eldest son of Augustine Crisp of Buskton, and to Ann wife of Francis Lovett.¹⁷ He died 5 September 1603, his wife Mary surviving him. His heir, his brother Anthony of Aynho, was aged fifty and more, and with Mary Morgan, widow, and other members of the family he conveyed the whole manor by fine to Augustine Nicolls in 1606.¹⁸

Sir Augustine died at Kendal while judge of assize on 3 August 1616, in his 58th year.¹⁹ He was succeeded at Faxton by his nephew Francis Nicolls of Hardwick, son and heir of Francis Nicolls of the same, Governor of Tilbury Fort.²⁰ Francis was of the Middle Temple, M.P. for the county, and sheriff, and was created a baronet in 1641. He married Mary, daughter of Edward Bagshawe. Sir Francis Nicolls died on 4 March 1642, and was buried at Hardwick, being succeeded there and at Faxton by his son Sir Edward, who under the Commonwealth appears to have enjoyed the high regard of the local Puritans,²¹ being appointed to the Northamptonshire Committee 1644, and sheriff of the county 1657–8.²² Francis Morgan was holding the manor in 1661, presumably for purposes of conveyance or settlement.²³ Sir Edward Nicolls died 28 February 1683, and was buried at Faxton. His heir was Sir Edward Nicolls, 3rd baronet, his only son (by his second wife Jane, eighth daughter of Sir Peter Soame, bart.),²⁴ who died s.p. in 1717, when Faxton passed to his two sisters, Susanna, wife of Sir John Danvers, and Jane, first married to John Raynsford, and then to . . . Kemsey.²⁵ Lady Danvers and Mrs. Kemsey were holding the manor when Bridges wrote; and it next passed into the hands of the Raynsfords, the descendants of Jane by her first husband. At the passing of the Inclosure Act in 1744–5, John Nicolls Raynsford of Brixworth was lord of the manor, and as such seised of 1,135 acres in the Netherfield, Middlefield, and Upperfield, 'in Faxton within the parish of Lamport' then inclosed.²⁶ It remained in the hands of the Raynsfords of Brixworth (q.v.) until Nicolls Raynsford in



NICOLLS. Sable three broad-arrow heads or.

¹ Maddison, *Lincs. Pedigrees* (Harl. Soc.), i, 128.

² Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), clxvi, 15.

³ *Visit. of Sussex* (Harl. Soc.), 21.

⁴ Feet of F. Northants. Trin. 19 Eliz.

⁵ Ibid. Div. Co. Hil. 20 Eliz.

⁶ Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), clxxxii, 32.

⁷ Chan. Proc. (Ser. 2), cclxi, 115.

⁸ *N. & Q. Northants.* vi, 143. Sir Edward conveyed his half of the manor of Newbold to Francis Saunders of the Middle Temple, esq., and Thomas Hatton.

⁹ Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), clxxxii, 32.

¹⁰ Bridges, *Hist. of Northants.* i, 593.

¹¹ Feet of F. Northants. Mich. 25 & 26 Eliz.

¹² Ibid.

¹³ Exch. Aug. Off. Misc. Bks. lxxxiv, 25.

¹⁴ *Acts of P.C.*, 1586–7, p. 330.

¹⁵ Feet of F. Northants. East. 28 Eliz.

¹⁶ Ibid. Trin. 38 Eliz.

¹⁷ Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), cclxxxi, 84.

¹⁸ Feet of F. Northants. Trin. 3 Jas. I.

¹⁹ Bridges, *Hist. of Northants.* ii, 95.

²⁰ G.E.C. *Baronetage*, ii, 114; Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), cclxxvii, 66.

²¹ Cf. *Cal. of Com. for Compounding*, 1054, 2923.

²² G.E.C. *Baronetage*, ii, 114.

²³ *Recov. R. Hil. 13 Chas. II.* ro. 131.

²⁴ G.E.C. *Baronetage*, ii, 114. By his first wife, Judith, daughter of Sir Roland St. John, K.B., Sir Edward had had seven daughters.

²⁵ Bridges, *Hist. of Northants.* ii, 95.

²⁶ *Priv. Stat.* 18 Geo. II, cap. 27.



FAXTON CHURCH: MONUMENT OF SIR AUGUSTINE NICOLLS



FAXTON CHURCH, FROM THE NORTH-WEST

1785 with his wife Mary conveyed it to Sir James Langham, bart., of Cottesbrooke,¹ with which manor it has since then descended.

Mawsley Wood is referred to from an early date. In 1292 Thomas de Lodinton received licence to inclose with a small dyke and low hedge, bring into cultivation, and hold in fee simple, 5 acres in Mawsley Wood within the Forest of Rockingham.² An extent of the manor of 1314 includes a wood, presumably this wood, within the forest.³ The hamlet of Mawsley in which it lies gave its name to a hundred at the date of the Domesday Survey, but before 1316 this had been included in that of Orlingbury.⁴ When Bridges wrote it was 'an hamlet of one or two cottages and a wood' and had always been held with the manor.⁵ It was an extra-parochial district until annexed by Act of Parliament to Faxon.

The church of *ST. DENIS* stands in an *CHURCH* isolated position in the fields and consists of chancel, 22 ft. 9 in. by 15 ft. 4 in.; clerestoried nave of four bays, 42 ft. 8 in. by 18 ft. 6 in.; and south aisle, 7 ft. 9 in. wide, all these measurements being internal. Over the west gable is a bell-cote containing two bells.

The building is largely of 13th-century date, but incorporates parts of a 12th-century chapel, the north doorway being of that period, and possibly the jambs of a doorway now in the aisle. New windows were inserted in the chancel and one in the aisle in the 14th century and the chancel arch was then reconstructed. The clerestory is an addition of the 15th century, as is probably the double-gabled bell-cote. The chancel is of coursed stone, without buttresses, and has a modern slated eaved roof. The east window⁶ is of three trefoiled lights with geometrical tracery, but is wholly restored, and there is a modern two-light window of the same style in the north wall. The south wall is blank, except for a plain lancet at its west end which has a transom at about a third of its height, the lower opening, now blocked, having formed a low-side window. The blocking consists of a single stone, through which a small oblong hole (now glazed) has been cut.⁷ In a similar position opposite in the north wall is a rectangular window of the same height, but slightly narrower and undivided, and with slightly sloping sill.⁸ In the usual position in the south wall is a square-headed piscina with projecting circular bowl moulded on the edge, and above it, forming one composition, a cupboard for the cruets. The chancel arch is of two chamfered orders with hood-mould on each side, the inner order resting on half-octagonal responds with moulded bases and oak-leaf capitals.

The arches of the nave arcade are of two chamfered orders springing from octagonal pillars with moulded capitals and bases, and a moulded corbel at each end, that at the east supported by a head. Two of the windows in the north wall are double lancets and the third a 15th-century insertion: the doorway has a round arch of a single square order. At the east end

of the aisle is a double lancet with circle in the head, and in the south wall a trefoil-headed piscina and two windows, one with forked mullion and the other of two trefoiled ogee lights. There is also a small round-headed window high in the wall near the west end, probably a later insertion. The clerestory windows are square-headed and of two lights. The 15th-century nave roof has moulded tie-beams, and wall-pieces on carved stone corbels, but is now in a bad condition. The west bay of the nave is partitioned off up to the roof, and forms a vestry.

The font is a relic of the 12th-century church, and has a plain circular bowl, short stem, and chamfered base. On the north side of the bowl is a small rudely-cut rectangular recess.

The pulpit is modern and the square deal pews are in a very dilapidated condition. Services in the church are infrequent.

Above the nave arcade, between the two clerestory windows, is a black and white marble monument to Sir Augustine Nicolls, kt., who 'having laboured in the high and painful calling of a most revered and just Judge for the space of four years fell under the heavy burden at Kendall sitting there Justice of Assize and coming to give judgement upon others, by his comfortable and Christian departure received, we assuredly believe, his judgement with mercy, in the year of our Lord 1616, the third day of August'. Sir Augustine is represented in his judge's robes kneeling before a desk, between the figures of Justice and Wisdom, and with his shield of arms above. The monument was restored in 1705.

There are also mural monuments to Sir Edward Nicolls, bart. (d. 1682), Susannah Danvers, a benefactor (d. 1730), John Nicolls Raynsford (d. 1746), Mrs. Hester Raynsford, widow of Francis Raynsford and daughter of Sir Justinian Isham (d. 1763), Elizabeth, wife of John Flamwell (d. 1781), and Elizabeth, widow of the above John Nicolls Raynsford (d. 1810).

The two bells are dated 1703; the smaller, now badly broken and long disused, bears also the name of the founder, Henry Penn of Peterborough.

The plate consists of a silver cup and paten of 1670, the former inscribed 'For Faxon Chappell 1671'. There is also a pewter plate inscribed 'For Faxon Chappell 1753'.

The registers before 1812 are contained in a single volume, beginning with baptisms in 1753 and marriages in 1756.

The church was given to the priory *ADVOWSON* of Lewes, in Sussex, by Guy de Balliol⁹ in the 12th century, and about 1180 the prior complained that Thomas, rector of Lamport, with the connivance of Simon Malesoures, caused the bodies of dead parishioners of Faxon to be buried at Lamport. The dispute was settled by the priory giving up all their rights in Faxon in return for an annual payment of 40s. from the rector of Lamport.¹⁰ About 40 years later payment of this sum, then stated

¹ Feet of F. Northants. Hil. 25 Geo. III.

² Cal. Pat. 1281-92, p. 438.

³ Cal. Inq. p.m. v, 526.

⁴ F.C.H. Northants. i, 298. The vill in Mawsley Hundred appear in separate lists in the 18th-century rolls of Orlingbury Hundred: *ex inf.* Miss Joan Wake.

⁵ Hist. of Northants. ii, 241. In the returns of knights' fees made for feudal aids Wm. de Vesey was holding 2 fees in

Faxon, Mawsley, and Walgrave; in 1316 Faxon and Mawsley are bracketed together: *Feud. Aids*, iv, 2, 21.

⁶ Bridges records the arms of Nicolls in the old east window, with the inscription 'Cujus insignia haec loca tenent in consecratione hujus capellae eadem insignivit': *Hist. of Northants*, ii, 95.

⁷ *Assoc. Arch. Soc. Reports*, xxix, 409. The lancet is 33 in. high by 12 in. wide:

height of top light 19 in. The sill is 33 in. above the floor inside.

⁸ *Ibid.* 410. The opening is 33 in. high by 10 in. wide. Height of sill from floor inside 30 in.

⁹ Cal. Doc. France, 512.

¹⁰ *Chartul. of Lewes Priory* (Suss. Rec. Soc.), i, 127. The Balliols were benefactors of the priory elsewhere.

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to be for two parts of the tithe of corn from the demesne of Ingeram de Dumart, was enforced against William de Walda, then rector.¹ It is probable that from its foundation the church of Faxton was always, as after 1208 it certainly has been, a chapel of ease to Lamport (q.v.), being served by the same incumbent.

An allotment in lieu of the glebe land (then containing about 36 acres) was made by the Inclosure Act of 1745;² when also instead of tithes from the three

Common Fields, and the swape of a piece of ground called the Fallow Meadow, a rent-charge of £80 on the lands of the lord of the manor was substituted.

Four tenements or almshouses were *CHARITIES* erected in 1736 by Mrs. Jane Kemsey, then a lady of the manor, for four poor widows, for whom her sister, Dame Susannah Danvers, the other lady of the manor, left a rent-charge in 1730 arising out of land in Pitsford.³

HANNINGTON

Haniton (xi cent.); Hanygton (xiv cent.).

Hannington lies between Walgrave and Holcot, and is 5 miles south-east from Lamport station. Two roads, from which other roads branch, run south through the parish from Walgrave, and the village, which is small and compact, lies on the easternmost of these. It is very pleasantly situated, and has several good houses and cottages, and a plentiful supply of excellent water.

The church stands high at the western end of the village, with the rectory to the south of it. The school (public elementary, mixed), to the north of it was built in 1871 for 35 children, at the sole expense of the lord of the manor. A little east of the church is the Manor Farm, on the farther side of a small Nonconformist chapel erected in 1865, but now closed. Hannington Grange lies away by itself at the north-eastern extremity of the parish. There is an old quarry at the opposite end of the village. The parish has an area of 1,248 acres. Its soil is red marl and clay: its subsoil shale and gravel. The chief crops grown are wheat and barley, and there is some land in pasture. The population, which in 1801 was 144 and was 222 in 1871, was 114 in 1931.

A notable rector was Thomas Godwin (1517-90), afterwards Bishop of Bath and Wells, whose son, Francis Godwin, D.D. (1562-1633), the historian, Bishop of Llandaff and Hereford, was born here.

Three virgates in *HANNINGTON* were *MANOR* entered in the Domesday Survey among the lands of the Countess Judith in Wilbybrook Hundred.⁴ This property, increased to 1½ hides, was returned in the 12th-century Northamptonshire Survey as held of the Countess Judith's successor King David⁵ of Scotland, and the overlordship descended with the honor of Huntingdon.

In, or before, the first half of the 13th century the family of Preston, of Preston Deanery (q.v.), had obtained the lordship of two fees in Preston, Wootton, Quinton, and Hannington, which in 1242 were held of the honor of Huntingdon by Gilbert de Preston.⁶ These fees descended to Thomas de Preston, who was holding half a fee in Boughton and Hannington in 1375,⁷ but in 1428 the fee which Thomas de Preston held in Wootton, Quinton, and Hannington was held by John Longvile and Geoffrey Bald;⁸ and after this no more is heard of this intermediate lordship.

In the inquisition taken in 1274 after the death of Gilbert de Preston, three properties held under him in Hannington were recorded: namely, 3 virgates held by Simon son of Ralph de Hannington by homage and suit of court; 2 virgates held by Simon de Seymour by homage, service of a pound of cummin and suit of court; and half a virgate held by Simon le Fu of Hannington by the like service;⁹ and these lands were assigned to Gilbert's widow Alice in dower.¹⁰

Simon de Hannington, under-tenant of the Prestons in 1274, came of a family which had probably been present in Hannington from an early date. Sarah de Hannington was dealing with lands in Hannington in 1227,¹¹ as were Simon son of Herbert de Hannington in 1258,¹² and William son of Simon de Hannington in 1268.¹³ Simon son of Ralph de Hannington, referred to above, claimed view of frankpledge here in 1275-6.¹⁴ Ralph de Hannington, who was recorded with William Wardedeu as holding lands in Hardwick and Hannington in 1316,¹⁵ was probably the Ralph de Hannington who enfeoffed of the manor of Hannington Master Roger Broun, who enfeoffed thereof William Broun, father of the William Broun by whom this manor was held in 1329-30, when the said William claimed view of frankpledge and assize of bread and ale, and other liberties appurtenant to this manor, as held of the honor of Huntingdon.¹⁶ The manor passed in some way to Roger Wakyrley, whose son and heir John in 1381 granted all the lands he had in the vill of Hannington by inheritance from his father to Sir Richard Waldegrave,¹⁷ who had a grant of free warren in Walgrave, Hannington, and Sywell in 1383.¹⁸ Sir Richard Waldegrave in 1428 paid subsidy for the quarter fee William Broun formerly held.¹⁹ His successor Richard Waldegrave was holding this manor as the manor of *BROWNS* in Hannington in 1445, when with his wife Joan he conveyed it to William Tresham,²⁰ to whom in the following year John Morys of Trumpington, co. Cambridge, released all right in the manor of Hannington.²¹ The attainder and forfeiture in 1472-3 of Sir Thomas Tresham, to whom, with Sywell, this manor had descended, resulted in its being granted on 2 May 1480 to the king's servant Edward Brampton.²² But it returned to the Treshams on the reversal of his attainder, and descended with Rushton (q.v.) in the Tresham family until in 1597 it was conveyed to Valentine Acton by Sir Thomas Tresham and Merilla his wife,

¹ Anct. D., A. 7896.

² Priv. Stat. 18 Geo. II, c. 27.

³ Whellan, *Hist. of Northants.* p. 867.

⁴ *V.C.H. Northants.* i, 351.

⁵ Ibid. 383.

⁶ *Bk. of Fees*, 938.

⁷ *Cal. Close*, 1374-7, p. 189.

⁸ *Feud. Aids*, iv, 42.

⁹ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* ii, 69.

¹⁰ *Cal. Close*, 1272-9, p. 222.

¹¹ Feet of F. Northants. case 172, file 19, no. 149.

¹² Ibid. case 174, file 42, no. 714.

¹³ Ibid. file 48, no. 857.

¹⁴ *Hund. R. (Rec. Com.)*, ii, 12.

¹⁵ *Feud. Aids*, iv, 21.

¹⁶ *Plac. de Quo Warr.* (Rec. Com.), 597.

¹⁷ *Cal. Close*, 1381-5, pp. 92-3.

¹⁸ *Cal. Chart. R.* v, 293.

¹⁹ *Feud. Aids*, iv, 33.

²⁰ Feet of F. Northants. 23 Hen. VI, no. 112. For an account of the de Waldegraves see Walgrave.

²¹ *Close R.* 24 Hen. VI, m. 17.

²² *Cal. Pat.* 1476-85, p. 194.

Francis Tresham, esq., Lewis Tresham, gent., and William Tresham, gent., sons of Sir Thomas.¹ In 1615 Valentine Acton and his son Nathaniel conveyed the manor to William Wilmer² of Sywell, and Hannington again descended with Sywell,³ with which manor it was held in 1725 by William Wilmer and his wife Mary.⁴

The manor came later into the hands of the Fremaux of Kingsthorpe and was devised under trust by Peter John Fremaux of Kingsthorpe, who died in 1784,⁵ to Thomas Boddington (who on 16 March 1764 married Maria Catherine Fremaux) and others. Thomas Boddington was returned as lord of the manor at the Inclosure Act of 1802,⁶ and died, aged 85, in 1821.⁷ Susanna, daughter and heir of Peter John Fremaux, married in 1799 Thomas Reeve Thornton of Brockhall⁸ and died in 1846, her husband in 1862. Their second son and ultimate heir, the Rev. Thomas Cook Thornton, M.A., of Brockhall, held the manor until his death unmarried in 1884. Hannington then passed to his nephew Francis Hugh Thornton, of Kingsthorpe, the third son of his brother the Rev. William Thornton of Kingsthorpe Hall,⁹ and Francis H. Thornton is now lord of the manor.

A quarter fee in Hannington held of the honor of Huntingdon in 1241 by Ingram Wardedieu¹⁰ had come to him from his brother Richard.¹¹ They may have been sons of William 'Warde Deu', who was dealing with lands here in 1227.¹² Ingram must have died in or before 1242, when his son William was holding the quarter fee;¹³ and William's son Henry, who had succeeded his father but was under age in 1260,¹⁴ was holding in 1284.¹⁵ Henry had been succeeded in 1312¹⁶ by William Wardedieu, who was still holding this quarter fee in 1316,¹⁷ but in 1325 had given place to Henry Wardedieu.¹⁸ Simon de Kelmarsh and his wife Sarra, widow of William Wardeu, were holding the manor of Hannington in 1329-30, for life of Sarra, with reversion to John Wardeu, son and heir of William, then a minor.¹⁹ A John Wardeu was holding this quarter fee in 1348,²⁰ and again in 1376.²¹ These were probably the two Johns referred to in a covenant of 1347 for the marriage of John son and heir of John Wardeu to Margaret daughter of Sir Waryn Latimer, and for a settlement of the manor on them.²² The Hannington manor was settled in 1378 on Sir Edward Dalringrigge and his wife Elizabeth, daughter and heir of John Wardedieu.²³ Sir Edward's son Sir John in 1394 granted, or mortgaged, these manors to Thomas Beston and Hugh Catesby.²⁴ The quarter fee which John Wardeu had formerly held was in 1428 in the hands of Richard Waldegrave and William Tresham and held severally by them.²⁵ William Tresham on 10 November 1441 received a grant of free warren in all the lands and woods which he held in demesne and in

reversion in Rushton, Sywell, and Hannington and elsewhere in the county,²⁶ and when Browns Manor was conveyed to him by Richard Waldegrave, in 1445, this presumably completed the transfer to him of the whole of Hannington, which from that date appears in one ownership.

Half a hide in Hannington was held before the Conquest by Edwin freely, and in 1086 was held of the Count of Mortain by William [de Cahagnes].²⁷ This half hide was returned in the 12th century as held of the fee of the Earl of Leicester,²⁸ and in 1236-42 was entered among the fees of Simon de Montfort, Earl of Leicester, as a quarter fee held by Henry de Mawr or Seymour.²⁹ According to a return of 1235 a small fee in Creton, Holdenby, and Hannington was held by William le Faukener of the fee of Keynes,³⁰ but there is no other trace of this Faukener lordship.

William de Seymour, who had acquired from Gerard de Dudinton 6½ virgates of land, as a quarter of a knight's fee, in Hannington in 1195-6,³¹ was the father³² of the Henry de Seymour holding under Simon de Montfort. They seem to have held part of their estate under the chief manor from the Prestons, as in 1293 Simon de Seymour was holding 2 virgates in Hannington from Gilbert de Preston.³³ A William de Seymour complained against John Waldegrave and his brother Richard in 1324 that they, with William, parson of Chalfont, and others, had assaulted him at Milton when on his way to his home at Hannington from the court at Northampton.³⁴ On 28 September 1326 William son of William de Seymour of Hannington received pardon for breaking the castle of Rockingham,³⁵ and in the following year the King committed to William de Seymour of Hannington the county and castle of Northampton.³⁶

Robert Seymour of Hannington went on campaign in France with Edward III, and a general pardon, for good service in the war in France, was granted him at Calais by the King on 4 September 1346 on condition of his remaining in the King's service 'so long as he shall stay this time on this side the seas'.³⁷

In 1364 complaint was made by William Sywardly that Thomas Seymour had poached in his fishery of Hannington, taking bream, perch, tench, and pike to the value of 100s.³⁸ This is the last record of a Hannington Seymour that survives.

The church of *ST. PETER AND CHURCH ST. PAUL* stands on high ground above the road in the middle of the village and consists of chancel, 29 ft. 9 in. by 15 ft. 2 in.; nave, 44 ft. by 30 ft.; north porch and embattled west tower, these measurements being internal. The plan of the nave is unusual, being divided longitudinally into two equal aisles³⁹ by a lofty arcade of three pointed arches

¹ Feet of F. Northants. Hil. 39 Eliz.

² Ibid. East. 12 Jas. I.

³ Ibid. Hil. 16 Jas. I, Mich. 17 Chas. I; Trin. 1654; Trin. 10 Wm. and M.; East. 3 Geo. I.

⁴ Ibid. Trin. 11 Geo. I.

⁵ Musgrave, *Obituary* (Harl. Soc.).

⁶ Priv. Stat. 42 Geo. III, cap. 112.

⁷ *Familie Minorum Gentium* (Harl. Soc.), ii, 1110. This was Thomas Boddington, the banker.

⁸ Burke, *Landed Gentry* (1925), Thornton of Brockhall.

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ *Cal. Close*, 1237-42, p. 369.

¹¹ Assize R. 616, m. 24 d.

¹² Feet of F. Northants. 12 Hen. III.

¹³ *Bk. of Feet*, 938.

¹⁴ Assize R. 616, m. 28 d.

¹⁵ *Feud. Aids*, iv, 2.

¹⁶ *Cal. Inq. p.m.*, v, 412.

¹⁷ *Feud. Aids*, iv, 21.

¹⁸ *Cal. Inq. p.m.*, vi, 612.

¹⁹ *Plac. de Quo Warr.* (Rec. Com.), 513.

²⁰ Chan. Inq. p.m. 22 Edw. III (1st nos.),

47. ²¹ *Cal. Close*, 1374-7, p. 189.

²² Cott. Ch. xxvi, 38.

²³ Feet of F. Div. Co. East. 1 Ric. II.

See *Suss. Arch. Coll.* ix, 283, 287.

²⁴ *Cal. Close*, 1392-6, pp. 388-96.

²⁵ *Feud. Aids*, iv, 33.

²⁶ *Cal. Chart. R.* vi, 30.

²⁷ *F.C.H. Northants*, i, 325.

²⁸ Ibid. i, 383.

²⁹ *Bk. of Feet*, 603, 939.

³⁰ Ibid. 502.

³¹ *Feet of F.* (Pipe Roll Soc. vol. 17), no. 92.

³² Assize R. 614, m. 25 d.

³³ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* ii, 69.

³⁴ *Cal. Pat.* 1321-4, p. 450.

³⁵ Ibid. 1324-7, p. 331.

³⁶ *Abbrev. Rot. Orig.* (Rec. Com.), ii, 4.

³⁷ *Cal. Pat.* 1345-8, pp. 484, 525.

³⁸ De Banco R. Trin. 38 Edw. III, m. 216 d.

³⁹ The only other medieval example in England of the bisected nave type of plan is the parish church of Caythorpe, Lincs. Upper Clatford, Hants, results from an early-17th-century alteration (*J.C.H. Hants*, iv, 364). The plan occurs, however, at Wisby (Gothland) in the late-

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which supports the ridge of the roof and abuts against the end walls above the chancel and tower arches. The tower sits over the west wall with external and inner arches, and measures 6 ft. 9 in. (north to south) by 5 ft. 3 in. internally at the bell-chamber stage. The church, which was restored in 1868–9,¹ is built of rubble and has a slated eaved roof to the nave. The chancel has plain parapets and a tiled roof.

With the exception of the upper stage of the tower, which is of the 14th century, the whole of the building dates from the last quarter of the 13th century, but the round-headed south doorway probably belongs to a previous small 12th-century church.

The chancel has short diagonal buttresses of a single stage and an east window of three lights with tracery

moulded capitals and bases, and dying into, or abutting against the east and west walls as already noted. In the north wall are two tall lockers for banner staves and processional cross, and in the usual position at the east end of the south wall a trefoiled piscina with fluted bowl. All the walls are plastered internally.

The south doorway has a semicircular arch of two chamfered orders with hood and imposts, the outer order on jamb shafts with moulded bases and scalloped capitals. The north doorway has a pointed arch of two continuous chamfered orders, the nave string-course serving as a hood-mould. The porch has a slated eaved roof and moulded gable coping, with modern apex cross.

The tower is of three stages, with lofty external western arch of two chamfered orders dying into the wall,

below which is a pointed doorway of three orders, the two outer on shafts with moulded capitals and bases. The upper stage is of dressed stone, in contrast to the older rubble below, and the bell-chamber windows are of two trefoiled lights with quatrefoil in the head. The arch to the nave springs from moulded corbels and is of two chamfered orders.

The 13th-century font has a plain octagonal bowl moulded on the upper and lower edges and lined with lead. The oak pulpit is coeval with the chancel screen, and is a well-preserved and interesting example, in plan a half octagon, with narrow traceried panels. There are no monuments.

In the tower are two bells, and a priest's bell cast in 1868. The first bell is of early-16th-century date

from the Leicester foundry and is inscribed 'Love horteth not': the second is dated 1615, and bears the stamp of Hugh Watts and the inscription 'Celorūm Chrste platiāt tibi rex sonus iste'.³

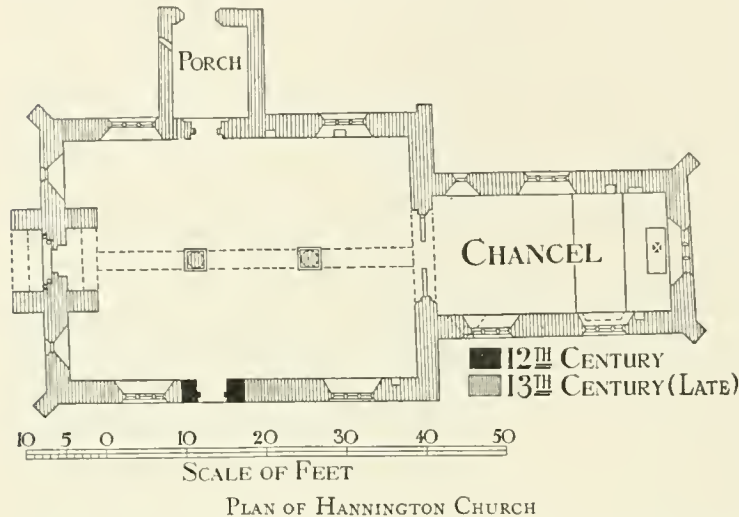
The plate consists of a silver cup and cover paten c. 1570, and a flagon of 1882.⁴

The registers begin in 1538, the entries of baptisms, marriages, and burials being recorded together until 1706. There are churchwardens' accounts beginning in 1710.

The church of Hannington was *ADVOWSON* valued at £4 6s. 8d. in 1291,⁵ and the rectory in 1535 was returned at £11 1s. 8d.⁶

The advowson was held at an early date by the convent of Sempringham in Lincolnshire; the prior made the presentation in 1223,⁷ and continued to do so until on 15 October 1320 the convent received licence to alienate it in mortmain to the Bishop of Lincoln,⁸ by whom it was held until transferred to the bishopric of Peterborough in 1852. In 1853 the rectory was separated from that of Walgrave, to which it had formerly been annexed.⁹

An Inclosure Act was passed in 1802¹⁰ and an allotment made in lieu of glebe and tithes, &c.



formed by the forking and intersection of the mullions. There is a similar window on the north side and two on the south, all with hood-moulds, and a keel-shaped string at sill level goes all round the chancel and nave. At the west end of the south wall is a rectangular low-side window, and a similar one opposite in the north wall, both equally splayed inside and now glazed.² The piscina has a fluted bowl under a trefoil arch with moulded hood, and the pointed arches of the two sedilia have dog-tooth in the hollow moulding and rest on a middle shaft with moulded capital and base, and on hollow-chamfered jambs. In the north wall is a rectangular aumbry and farther east a small arched recess. The chancel arch is of two chamfered orders, the innermost springing from half octagon responds with moulded capitals and chamfered bases. Across the opening is a late-14th-century traceried screen, with doors, and solid lower panels.

The plan of the nave is very regular, with north and south doorways opposite each other, two windows similar to those in the chancel in the north and south walls, and at the west end two lancets, one on either side of the tower. The arches of the arcade are of two chamfered orders springing from circular pillars with

12th-century church of St. George, which is said to have been the English church.

¹ A west gallery was then taken down and the tower arch opened out.

² The low-side windows were opened out in 1869. In so doing there was found on the splay the pattern of a coat-of-arms—a chevron between three mullets—repeated several times, roughly drawn

with a nail: Sir Henry Dryden's MS. notes in Northampton Public Library.

³ North, *Ch. Bells of Northants.* 288. The second is now used only as a clock bell. Before 1868 there were three bells and a priest's bell. One of the former and the latter being cracked they were re-cast by Taylor of Loughborough into the present priest's bell. The motto on the first bell is

from Romans xiii, 10.

⁴ Markham, *Ch. Plate of Northants.* 143.

⁵ *Tax. P. Nich. (Rec. Com.),* 39.

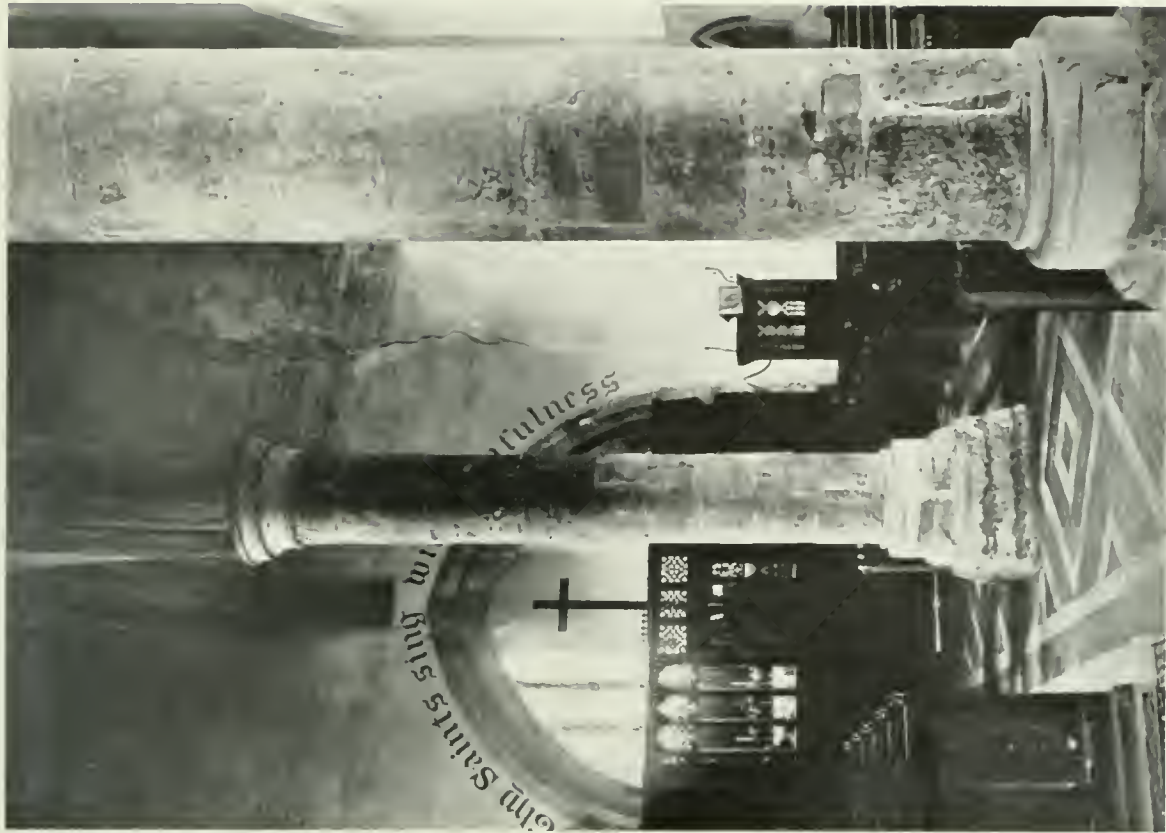
⁶ *Valor Eccl. (Rec. Com.),* iv, 306.

⁷ Bridges, *Hist. of Northants.* ii, 97.

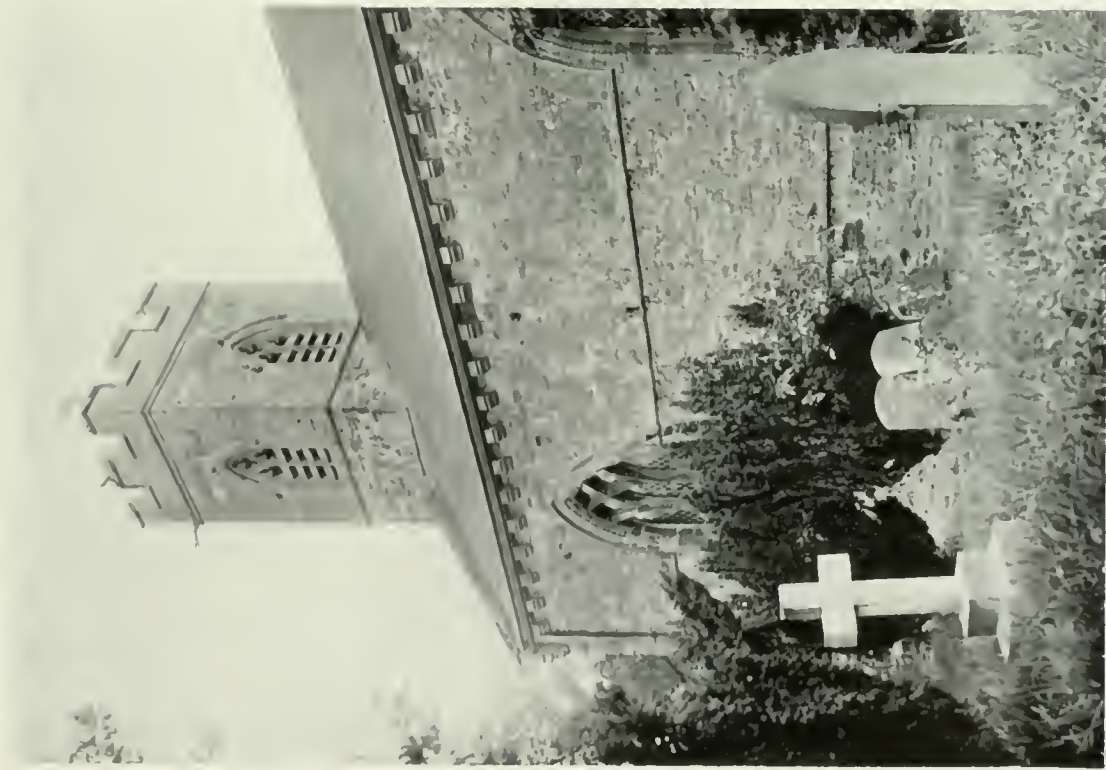
⁸ *Cal. Pat.* 1317–21, p. 506.

⁹ *Ex inf.* Mr. H. Savory.

¹⁰ *Priv. Stat.* 42 Geo. III, cap. 112.



HANNINGTON CHURCH: INTERIOR, LOOKING EAST



HANNINGTON CHURCH, FROM THE SOUTH-EAST



HARDWICK: THE MANOR HOUSE

HARDWICK

Herdewic (xi cent.); Herdewike (xiii cent.).

Hardwick, about 3 miles north-west of Wellingborough station, is bounded north and east by the Harrowdens. It lies generally high, the little village being situated in a hollow on the brow of a hill.

The old manor-house, now used as a farm, stands to the south-east of the church and is a picturesque gabled building of stone with slated roofs. The oldest part of the house appears to be of 14th-century date, a two-light traceried window on the north side being of this period, but the building was altered and largely rebuilt in the latter half of the 16th century by Thomas Nicolls, whose arms are over the front entrance. The house then assumed more or less its present appearance, with mullioned bay windows, but it was again restored and enlarged in 1775. In one of the rooms is a painted oak overmantel of three compartments divided by Ionic pilasters and bearing the arms of Thomas Nicolls.

At the north-eastern end of the village is Hardwick House, built by the rector in 1868, when the old rectory was in ruins.

The children attend school at Little Harrowden, but a school building with teacher's residence attached was erected by the Thornton family, lords of the manor, in 1870.

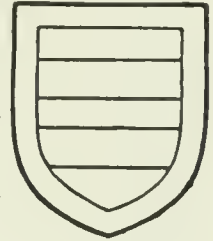
When Bridges wrote the parish had been inclosed for about a hundred years. There were then two woods, and he gives the names of two springs, Marywell and Dunswell. It held 16 families. The population, which was 68 in 1801, was 121 in 1931. The poll-books show that there were 3 freeholders in 1705, and none in 1831.

The area of the parish is 1,269 acres, and its soil of a mixed fertile character: its subsoil clay. The chief crops grown are cereals.

One hide in *HARDWICK* was re-*MANOR* turned in the Domesday Survey among the lands the Countess Judith held in Hamfordshoe Hundred, and had been held with sac and soc before the Conquest by Ulf. It was held, with another hide in Hardwick in Orlingbury Hundred, under the Countess by Alan.¹ In the 12th century these 2 hides formed the 9 small virgates returned in the Hundred of Hamfordshoe, held of the fee of King David,² and the overlordship of the whole descended with the honor of Huntingdon to Henry de Hastings and his wife Ada,³ being recorded separately as in Domesday, i.e. as a quarter of a fee in Hardwick held by the Seymours, and under them by the Barrys, with a half fee held by the Grimbauds and under them by the Seymours;⁴ but also together as one fee held by the Seymours of the Grimbauds, under the de Hastings who held in chief.⁵ In 1236 half a fee in Hardwick was returned among the fees held of the earldom of Huntingdon by Simon Minor.⁶

Like Diddington (Hunts.)⁷ Hardwick descended from Alan 'the sewer' to the Grimbauds or Grim-

bauds. About 1095 the Grimbald who held Moulton in 1086 gave the church of that vill to St. Andrew's Priory, Northampton.⁸ The churches of Little Houghton and Hardwick were bestowed on the priory by Robert Grimbaud and Maud his wife, c. 1130, and this grant was confirmed when a fresh grant of Moulton church to the priory was made by Robert Grimbaud of Houghton, William his son and Robert the son of William then confirming the grant, and also earlier grants of the churches of Brafield, Hardwick, and Houghton.⁹ In 1197 William Grimbaud granted to Henry de Seymour half a knight's fee in Hardwick,¹⁰ evidently the half fee the Seymours later kept in their own hands, and Robert Grimbaud in 1242 was



GRIMBAUD. *Argent two bars azure and a border gules.*

holding 4 knights' fees in Houghton, Hardwick, Brafield, Newton, and Moulton of the honor of Huntingdon.¹¹ He had been succeeded in 1284 by William Grimbaud, then holding a whole fee in Hardwick of John de Hastings, with Henry de Seymour as under-tenant.¹² The half fee conveyed in 1196-7 was held in 1312 by John de Seymour,¹³ evidently under Robert Grimbaud, in whose hands it was returned in 1325,¹⁴ being held by the heirs of Robert Grimbaud in 1348.¹⁵ The manor was returned in 1329-30 as held by John de Seymour of Robert Grimbaud, of the Hastings' pourparty of the honor of Huntingdon,¹⁶ and as held of the Countess of Pembroke as of the fee of Grimbaud in 1362,¹⁷ but no further reference to Grimbaud mesne tenants occurs.

The Seymours held under the Grimbauds until the second half of the 14th century, but in 1267 their tenure was interrupted for a time by the grant of the manor to Geoffrey Goscelyn by the king, it having been forfeited by Henry de Seymour. In an extent of the manor then made it was returned that Henry de Seymour had 5½ virgates in demesne of 26 acres, each acre being worth 8d. per annum; 8½ similar virgates in villeinage, worth 17s. 8d. each; and a windmill worth 20s. The manor was extended at £18.¹⁸ By 1275 the manor was again in the hands of Henry de Seymour, who was claiming view of frankpledge, and in 1284 he held a whole fee in Hardwick.¹⁹ In 1313 half a knight's fee in Hardwick held by John de Seymour, and a quarter fee (which was probably now known as *BARRY'S MANOR*) held by Alice Barry, evidently by grant of the Seymours, were included among fees held of John de Hastings.²⁰ In 1325 half a fee in Hardwick was returned among the Hastings' fees under the lordship of Robert Grimbaud, the quarter fee being then held by John Barry.²¹ In 1329-30 John de Seymour's claim to view of frankpledge and other liberties in his manor of Hardwick was objected to on the ground that he

¹ *V.C.H. Northants.* i, 354.

² *Ibid.* 382a.

³ *Cal. Close*, 1237-42, p. 369; *Feud. Aids*, iv, 2; *Cal. Close*, 1374-7, p. 189.

⁴ *Cal. Inq. p.m.*, v, 412; vi, 612; ix, 118, pp. 22 and 23; *Cal. Close*, 1346-9, p. 582.

⁵ *Feud. Aids*, iv, 2.

⁶ *Bk. of Fees*, 501.

⁷ *V.C.H. Hunts.* ii, 269.

⁸ Dugdale, *Mon.* v, 185.

⁹ *Ibid.* 186.

¹⁰ Feet of F. Div. Co. 8 Ric. I, no. 46.

¹¹ *Cal. Close*, 1237-42, p. 369; *Bk. of Fees*, 934.

¹² *Feud. Aids*, iv, 2.

¹³ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* v, 412.

¹⁴ *Ibid.* vi, 612 (p. 391).

¹⁵ Chan. Inq. p.m. 22 Edw. III (1st nos.), 47.

¹⁶ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* viii, 278.

¹⁷ Chan. Inq. p.m. 36 Edw. III, pt. 2, no. 44.

¹⁸ *Cal. Inq. Misc.* 1219-1307, no. 327.

¹⁹ *Feud. Aids*, iv, 2.

²⁰ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* v, 412.

²¹ *Ibid.* vi, 612.

A HISTORY OF NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

made this claim for the whole of the manor whereas he held one half, only for life, by grant of one John Barry, and only one half in fee. His reply was that he did hold certain tenements for life only in Hardwick by grant of John Barry, but that he made no claim to view of frankpledge in them; he did, however, prove that he had his own complete manor by right of inheritance, held of Robert Grimbaud of Laurence de Hastings as of the honor of Huntingdon.¹ John de Seymour died in 1340, his wife Maud surviving him, and was succeeded by his son John.² Besides the manor he held a messuage, 120 acres of land in demesne, 1 acre 1 rood of meadow, and 33s. 4d. rent of free and bond tenants and cottars, evidently the quarter fee or Barry's Manor. John de Seymour his son apparently fell a victim to the Black Death in 1349, in which year an inquisition was taken as to tenements he held in Hardwick and Irtlingborough of the manor of Grafton.³ Another, taken on 27 May 1350,⁴ records the action he took as regards his two manors in Hardwick. It states that being sick to death, but of good and sane memory, he gave the manor of Hardwick which he had by ancient right and inheritance to William de Seymour and Elizabeth Chartres (sister of John)—presumably in trust for his young son—and being carried to the door of the said manor, he delivered seisin thereof to William and Elizabeth, and was carried thence to his manor in the said vill late of Peter Barry. He also gave to the same William and Elizabeth a large grange and a large garden, late of the said Peter, and 2 carucates of land, and being carried from one manor to the other said: 'Take this grange and garden by way of seisin'; and so he died seised of that chief messuage late of the said Peter, and of a virgate of land in Hardwick excepted from the said grange and garden. In the inquisition neither date of death nor heir were recorded, but it seems that he left a son and heir John, then aged 13. Proof of the age of this John was taken at Brixworth on 24 March 1358, when it was stated that he had been born on 6 January 1338, and baptized, according to the evidence of John Barry, one of the witnesses, in the church of the vill, his name being entered in the missal of the church because he was the eldest son of his father.⁵ On 24 October 1358 it was returned that John de Seymour had held a messuage and 2 virgates of land of the heir of Laurence de Hastings, Earl of Pembroke, when he died of the pestilence now past, and that his son and heir John was now of full age. The king had taken the profits since the death of John by his escheators.⁶ Sir John de Seymour, in 1361, settled the manors of Hardwick and Grafton on himself and his wife Agnes.⁷ He died s.p. the following year and was succeeded by his brother Thomas,⁸ who, as Thomas Seymour of Hardwicke, occurs as late as 1386.⁹ The Seymour line then seems to have ended in female heirs, as Walter and William St. German, clerks, who had obtained licence to purchase Barry's manor in 1396, were sued in 1402 for disseisin of a certain freehold in

Seymours Hardwick by Andrew Brown, Catherine his wife, and Isabel Seymour.¹⁰

The manor subsequently passed into the hands of the Greens of Green's Norton, apparently through marriage with a Seymour heiress.¹¹ After the death of Sir Thomas Green, in 1391, 8 messuages and 4 virgates of land in Hardwick came to his son Thomas and are noted as held of others than the King.¹² Sir Thomas Green, son of Sir Thomas Green, settled his manor of Hardwick on his wife Philippa, daughter of Robert de Ferrars, lord of Chartley, and on his son Thomas, and died on 14 December 1420, Thomas who succeeded him being then 18 years of age.¹³ Apparently the Greens of Green's Norton alienated the manor to Sir Henry Green of Drayton, on whose death in 1469 it was assigned by his daughter and heir Constance and her husband John Stafford to Margaret, the widow of Sir Henry, for life.¹⁴ It then followed the descent of Drayton (q.v.), being held, c. 1515, in thirds by the co-heirs of Sir Henry, daughters of Sir Henry Vere. One third was therefore held by John, Lord Mordaunt, the husband of Henry Vere's eldest daughter Elizabeth, and in 1548 he acquired from George Brown, son of Ann, the second daughter, and her husband Humphrey Brown, lands in Hardwick, probably representing a second third of the estate.¹⁵ But a grant of a third of the manor made to him next year by the third daughter Audrey and her husband John Browne and their son George¹⁶ seems to have been ineffective, possibly because they had already mortgaged it in 1530 to Sir Humphrey Browne, serjeant-at-law, the uncle of John.¹⁷ In 1561 Sir Humphrey Browne was dealing with a third of the manor.¹⁸ This third, which descended from Audrey Vere and her husband John Browne to their grandson Wistan Browne [of Rookewoods Hall in Essex],¹⁹ was sold by him on 7 May 1567 to Thomas Nicolls.²⁰

Thomas Nicolls granted to his father, William Nicolls, a lease of the manor for 21 years after his death, and died on 29 June 1568, his father surviving him. He left a son and heir Francis, aged 15, and three other sons, Augustine, Lewis, and William.²¹ Francis, who at the death of his grandfather, William Nicolls, at the age of 96 on 8 September 1576, was aged 19, married Anne Seymour, daughter of David Seymour, and was Governor of Tilbury Fort. He sold to Francis Gill 3 closes of meadow and a little willow grove in Hardwick, and the Neates' Pasture (120 acres) and More Close or Morescole (130 acres) adjoining, all held of the king in chief by knight service.²² The manor had still been held in thirds in 1586, when Sir Lewis Mordaunt, Lord Mordaunt, made a conveyance by fine of one third to George Monoux,²³ but in the following year the manor was held by him and Eliza-



GREEN. Azure three harts tripping or.

¹ *Plac. de Quo Warr.* (Rec. Com.), 530-1.

² *Cal. Inq. p.m.* viii, 278.

³ *Ibid.* ix, 329.

⁴ *Ibid.* 583.

⁵ *Ibid.* x, 454. Other witnesses included various members of the family 'de Hardwicke'.

⁶ *Ibid.* x, 415.

⁷ Feet of F. Northants. 35 Edw. III, no. 501.

⁸ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 36 Edw. III, pt. 2, no. 44.

⁹ *Cal. Close*, 1385-9, p. 145.

¹⁰ Bridges, op. cit. ii, 99.

¹¹ *V.C.H. Northants.* iii, 209.

¹² *Cal. Close*, 1389-92, p. 391.

¹³ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 5 Hen. V, no. 39.

¹⁴ *Cal. Pat.* 1467-77, pp. 158-9.

¹⁵ *Com. Pleas, Deeds* Enr. East 1 Edw.

VI, m. 6 d.

¹⁶ Feet of F. Northants. Trin. 2 Edw.

VI.

¹⁷ *Ibid.* Mich. 22 Hen. VIII; *L. and P. Hen. VIII*, iv, 6709 (1).

¹⁸ *Pat. R.* 3 Eliz. pt. 8; Feet of F. Div.

Co. Hil. 4 Eliz.

¹⁹ *Essex Visit.* (Harl. Soc.), i, 167.

²⁰ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), clxxii, 30; *Pat. R.* 9 Eliz. pt. 4; *Recov. R. Mich.* 9 & 10 Eliz. ro. 809; Feet of F. Northants. Mich. 9 & 10 Eliz.

²¹ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), clxi, 117.

²² *Ibid.* cccxvi, 36.

²³ Feet of F. Div. Co. Trin. 28 Eliz. George Monoux had married Elizabeth, daughter of John, Lord Mordaunt: *Essex Visit.* (Harl. Soc.), i, 166.

beth his wife, and by Francis Nicolls, gent., and Anne his wife.¹ Francis Nicolls died in 1604 and left a son and heir Francis.² The Nicolls' share in the manor was transferred by either the father or the son to the Mordaunts, probably about the year 1608, in which year the property sold to Francis Gill was conveyed by his son John Gill to Sir Augustine Nicolls, sergeant-at-law,³ the purchaser of Faxon and of Broughton; and in 1609 Henry, Lord Mordaunt, son of Sir Lewis (d. 1601), was holding the manor alone, and conveyed it by fine to Thomas Lock and John Rowe.⁴ The Nicolls still, however, retained lands in Hardwick, and it was as Francis Nicholls (*sic*) of Hardwick that Francis, who had succeeded his uncle Sir Augustine at Faxon and Broughton at his death s.p. in 1616, was created a baronet in 1641. He was buried at Hardwick in 1642.⁵ His grandson, Sir Edward Nicolls, bart., of Faxon, bequeathed lands in Hardwick for the augmentation of several livings.⁶

John, Lord Mordaunt (who succeeded his father Henry in 1608,⁷ and was created Earl of Peterborough in 1628) and his brother James sold the manor for £3,000 with courts leet, courts baron, &c., to Sir Henry Compton, K.B., of Brambletye, Sussex, and William Gage in 1638;⁸ and in 1640 a moiety was conveyed by Sir Henry Compton to Richard, Viscount Lumley in Ireland,⁹ the whole being conveyed in 1649 by Viscount Lumley, Nicholas Lanyon and Dorothy his wife, and William Gage and Dorothy his wife to William Ward and Robert Ward.¹⁰ This was William Ward of Little Houghton,¹¹ and Hardwick followed the descent of that manor until conveyed in 1733 to William Lock by William and Thomas Ward.¹²

Elizabeth, daughter and heir of William Ward of Brafield, had married in 1692 Thomas Thornton of Brockhall, and it is possibly through connexion with the Ward family that the manor had come into the hands of John Thornton, who was holding it in 1854. In the latter half of the 19th century it was held by Mrs. McKenzie, and for the last fifty years has been held by her trustees.

The church of *ST. LEONARD* stands *CHURCH* on the south side of the village, and consists of chancel, 17 ft. 6 in. by 15 ft.; nave of four bays, 43 ft. by 17 ft. 3 in.; south aisle, 7 ft. 6 in. wide; north porch, and embattled west tower, 8 ft. 3 in. by 7 ft. 6 in., all these measurements being internal. The tower, the nave arcade, and the south side of the chancel date from about 1220 and, though the chancel arch appears to be of rather later in the same century, the church is in plan substantially of one period. A clerestory was added on the south side in the 14th century, and the nave windows and two in the chancel are of that date, though probably insertions in the older walls. In 1795 the chancel was shortened by about 8 ft., and the aisle taken down,¹³ and a new south wall erected blocking the arcade, which was incorporated with it: a south porch was also erected. In 1866¹⁴ the arcade was

opened out and the aisle rebuilt, a north porch added, the east wall of the chancel reconstructed, and the whole church re-roofed. At the restoration of the chancel the original east-end foundation was found, but the wall was rebuilt on its 18th-century foundation.

The church is built throughout of rubble and the roofs are of low pitch leaded. The chancel has a modern east window of four lights, and in the north wall a restored 14th-century window of two lights. There is a similar restored window at the west end of the south wall and below it a 13th-century low-side window of lancet form, with rear arch, opened out and glazed in 1867. The priest's doorway is also of 13th-century date: it has three scratch dials on the arch. Internally the chancel is wholly restored and owing to the demolition of the original east end no ancient ritual arrangements remain. On the north wall outside is a corbel carved with a bishop's head, probably an insertion. The chancel arch is of two hollow-chamfered orders, the inner resting on half-octagonal responds with moulded capitals and bases.

The arches of the nave arcade are of two chamfered orders springing from circular pillars and half-round responds, all with circular moulded bases and capitals, the nail-head occurring in the responds. The three windows in the north nave wall are of two trefoiled lights with quatrefoil in the head and ogee hood-moulds, but the tracery and mullions are modern copies of the old work: the two clerestory windows are of similar type restored, but without the ogee hood-moulds. The north doorway, like the windows, is of 14th-century date.

The tower is of three stages, without buttresses, but with a considerable set-back at the second stage. The west window is a tall lancet without hood-mould, but otherwise the walls in the lower stages are blank. The bell-chamber windows consist of two grouped lancets below a containing arch, the head pierced with a quatrefoil opening. The parapet belongs to the 14th-century alterations, but below it the carved heads of the original corbel table remain. The tower arch is of two chamfered orders dying out. There is no vice. The west window contains some medieval glass with a figure of St. Leonard.

The 13th-century font is one of the most interesting in the county. The upper part of the bowl is hexagonal, the angles supported by detached shafts with moulded capitals and bases, carrying plain chamfered arches: the underside of the bowl is rounded and rests on a massive circular stem. Above the shafts the angles are chamfered upwards, the top thus forming a figure of twelve sides.¹⁵

The pulpit dates from 1867 and is of Derbyshire spar inlaid with mosaic, on a Bathstone base. The seating is all modern. There is a chest dated 1683.

On the south wall of the chancel is the small alabaster monument of Francis Nicholls (d. 1604), with shield of arms, long Latin inscription,¹⁶ and effigies of himself, wife, and two children incised in slates, the lines being

¹ Feet of F. Northants. Mich. 29 & 30 Eliz.

² Bridges, *Hist. of Northants.* ii, 101.

³ Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), cccxvi, 36.

⁴ Feet of F. Div. Co. Hil. 6 Jas. I.

⁵ G.E.C. *Baronetage*, ii, 114.

⁶ Bridges, *Hist. of Northants.* ii, 101.

⁷ Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), cccix, 200.

⁸ Com. Pleas, Recov. R. Mich.

14 Chas. I, m. 10.

⁹ *Ibid.* East, 16 Chas. I, m. 10. Sir Henry Compton of Hardwick was entered

among delinquents sequestered on 28 March 1648: *Cal. of Com. for Comp.* 88.

¹⁰ Feet of F. Northants. Hil. 1649.

¹¹ Bridges, *Hist. of Northants.* ii, 100.

¹² Feet of F. Northants. Trin. 6 & 7 Geo. II; Recov. R. Trin. 7 Geo. II, ro. 30.

¹³ The church was considered big enough without it. Bridges noted a piscina in the aisle and the steps to the rood loft on south of chancel from the south aisle: *Hist. of Northants.* ii, 100.

¹⁴ A contemporary account describes the

building in 1866 as 'in such a dilapidated condition that it was almost ruinous'—*Northampton Herald*, 26 Oct. 1867.

¹⁵ At one time the space between the shafts was filled with stucco, hiding them and the underside of the bowl: the panels thus formed were ornamented with blind lancets. The font is so figured in *Paley's Baptismal Fonts*, 1844. A former curate picked out the stucco and released the shafts.

¹⁶ Given by Bridges, *Hist. of Northants.* ii, 101.

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gilded. The monument, which has been restored, also records the death of his son Sir Francis Nicholls, bart., in 1641.¹ In the chancel floor are brass plates to William Nicolls (d. 1576), Ann, wife of Francis Nicolls (d. 1591), Edward Bagshawe (d. 1620), and Henry Bagshawe (d. 1621).² There is a floor-slab in the nave to the Rev. William Baker, rector (d. 1733).

There were formerly two bells, but the second was sold in 1795 to defray the expense of pulling down the aisle.³ The other, a 15th-century bell bearing the inscription 'Sum Rosa Pulsata Katerina vocatur', now stands below the tower, having been displaced in 1896 to make way for a set of tubes.

The plate consists of a silver cup and cover paten of 1570, inscribed 'For the Tovn of Hardwycke', and two silver-plated alms dishes.⁴

The registers before 1812 are as follows: (i) baptisms 1561-1644, 1661-1742, marriages 1561-1643, 1666-1743, burials 1559-1643, 1664-78;⁵ (ii) baptisms 1744-80, marriages 1744-54, burials 1678-1780; (iii) baptisms 1776-1812, marriages 1756-1812, burials 1782-1812.

The church was valued at £6 13s. 4d. in 1291.⁶ The profits of the rectory in 1535 were returned as

£8 os. 9d. yearly, of which £1 3s. 4d. was paid annually to the prior of St. John of Jerusalem in England.⁷

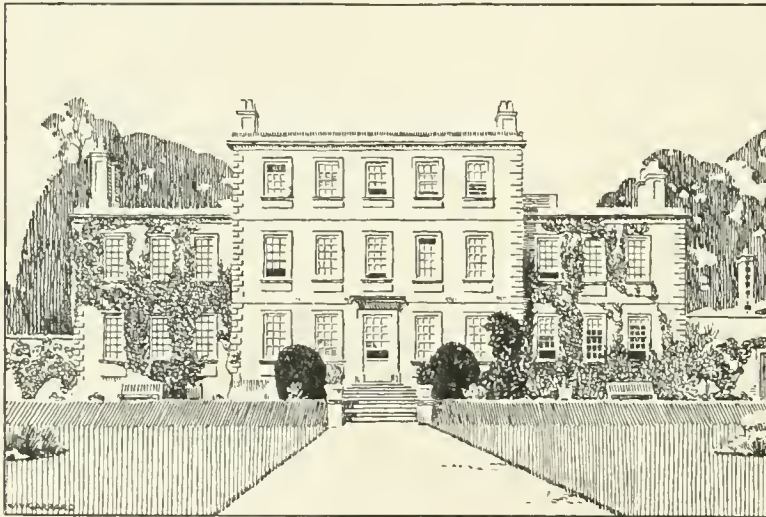
The advowson, which was given to **ADVOUSON** St. Andrew's Priory in Northampton about 1130,⁸ and confirmed to that house by Robert, Bishop of Lincoln,⁹ was in 1199 conveyed by Walter, Prior of Northampton, to the Master of the Knights Templars.¹⁰ In 1249-50 Robert de Saunford, Master of the Knights Templars, conveyed it to Henry de Seymour,¹¹ but the presentation was recovered against John de Seymour in 1304,¹² and held by the Prior of the Hospital until the Dissolution, since when it has been held by a succession of owners, frequently incumbents. For over 150 years it was held with Faxton Manor (q.v.). It was in the hands of Francis Nicolls in 1628, and was held by Nicolls Rainsford and his wife Mary in 1794.¹³ It is now held by the incumbent, the Rev. E. A. Richards.

Tithes were commuted in 1839 for a rent-charge of £230.

The vicar of Hardwick receives **CHARITIES** annually a cheque for £30 from the trustees of Sir Edward Nicolls' Charity, which is described under the parish of Kettering.

GREAT HARROWDEN

Hargindone, Hargedone (xi cent.); Harudon (xii cent.); Magna Harwedone, Harewedon (xiii cent.); Much Harowdon, Harrodon (xvi cent.).



GREAT HARROWDEN: THE HALL

Great Harrowden lies on the road from Kettering to Wellingborough and is bounded on the north by Little Harrowden, west by Hannington, and south by Hardwick. On the east the Ise brook¹⁴ divides it from

the Hundred of Huxloe, and the land near it is low and liable to floods. But the parish has an undulating surface, and the village stands at about 300 ft.

The L.M.S. railway has a station at Finedon, a mile and a half north-east of the village, which lies mainly to the east of the junction of the road from Kettering to Wellingborough with the road to Olney. The church of All Saints lies south of the Olney road. East of the church is Harrowden Hall, a spacious mansion in the simpler fashion, with beautiful gardens. Its predecessor, 'Mrs. Wawse's house at Harrowden', was a centre of the recusants during the minority of her son Edward, fourth Lord Vaux, and at the time of the Gunpowder Plot. In 1601 Henry Knowles wrote to Sir Robert Cecil of a refugee in this house, 'I am certainly informed that if I should see him go in and presently see the house there be such places for concealing him as except a man pull down the house he shall never find him'.¹⁵ The present Hall appears to have been begun by Nicholas Knolles about 1687, which date is carved

¹ He died at Faxton, 4 March 1641-2, and was buried at Hardwick 15 March: Registers. The monument was restored at the charges of Earl Spencer.

² The inscription records that Henry Bagshawe 'having spent seven years as a factor in France' came to London, 'where he received the freedom of the company of Merchant Taylors, from whence he came hither to Hardwick to receive the Freedom of Heaven which he obtained the 29th day

of May, An. dni. 1621.'

³ North, *Ch. Bells of Northants.* 290. The remaining bell is 36 in. diam. and from the evidence of the founder's marks appears to have been cast in London by William Dawe in association with John Bird, or by Bird (c. 1420) after Dawe's death.

⁴ Markham, *Ch. Plate of Northants.* 144.

⁵ The entries of burials 1672-8 have been cut out. The first volume is inscribed

'For the Town of Hardwycke'.

⁶ *Tax. Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), 39.

⁷ *Valor Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), iv, 306.

⁸ See above. ⁹ Harl. Ch. 43 H. 3.

¹⁰ Feet of F. Northants. 1 John, no. 1.

¹¹ Ibid. 34 Hen. III, no. 580.

¹² Bridges, *Hist. of Northants.* ii, 100.

¹³ Inst. Bks. (P.R.O.), &c.

¹⁴ The 'aqua de Ise' occurs in 1246: Assize R. 614, m. 41.

¹⁵ *Hist. MSS. Com., Hatfield MSS.* xi, 45.

upon the stonework of the fireplace in the entrance-hall,¹ but was probably renovated and perhaps enlarged by Thomas Watson *alias* Wentworth² after his purchase of the property in 1695, his arms occurring on the stone vases of the gate-piers and on metal shields over the gates.³ The date 1712 is on the spout-heads of the house. In the grounds is a Roman Catholic chapel, built by the last Lord Vaux. It is a copy of Archbishop Chichele's School at Higham Ferrers. A private cemetery adjoins the chapel.

Harrowden Hall was at one time occupied as a boarding-school for young ladies by the wife of Samuel Sharp, F.S.A., the well-known geologist and antiquary (1814–82), the closing years of whose life were spent there.⁴ It remained a girls' school until 1898, shortly before which date Lord Vaux had bought the Hall from George Fitzwilliam. On the death of the last Lord Vaux in 1935 the Hall passed to his grandson, John H. P. Gilbey, esq., second son of Grace, eldest daughter and coheir of Lord Vaux.⁵

To the west of the church is the manor-house. It stands on the road leading from the village to Orlingbury, and is a two-story ironstone building with projecting three-story porch taken up above the roof, in the gable of which is a panel with the date 1648 and initials R^{ca}. Many of the mullioned windows have been altered or removed, and the roofs are covered with modern blue slates. It is in the occupation of J. D. Groome, esq. Just beyond it is the vicarage, a house of considerable charm. To the south of Great Harrowden Hall are old stone-pits, and the Red Hill Spinnies. Great Harrowden Mill lies at the north-eastern end of the parish, on the Ise Brook.

The soil is of a good fertile mixed character; substratum loamy, Great Oolite, limestone, sand, and ironstone: the area of the parish is 1,476 acres of land and 5 acres of water; the land is chiefly pasturage.

The children attend school at Little Harrowden. The school in Great Harrowden was closed about fifty years ago, and is now used on Sundays only.

Lands in *HARROWDEN* were entered *MANORS* in the Domesday Survey among those held by the Bishop of Coutances:⁶ 2 hides and 3 virgates there were held of him by Wakelin, and had been held before the Conquest by Edwin, evidently the son of Burred, the great English landowner and thegn, who held lands in Bedfordshire and Buckinghamshire as well as in this county. One and a half hides 'in another Hargindone' [Little Harrowden], with land for 3 ploughs, which Wakelin also held, were valued with this property; and the soc of 1 virgate in Wellingborough pertained to the bishop's manor of Harrowden. On the forfeiture of the bishop's fief this Harrowden property passed to the fee or honor of Huntingdon, and it was returned in the Northamptonshire Survey that Geoffrey held 2 hides less 1 bovate in Harrowden of that fee.⁷ Two manors of Great and Little Harrowden, called *LEUKNORS* early in the

15th century,⁸ probably originated in these estates, which seem to have been held by the family of Muschamp before the end of the 12th century.⁹ A manor of Harrowden was granted in 1244 to Geoffrey de Leuknor by Robert de Muschamp,¹⁰ and was clearly identical with the manor of Great Harrowden and its members the manors of Little Harrowden and Isham, returned as so granted in the *Quo Warranto* pleas of 1329–30.¹¹

Though the distinctive terms Great and Little Harrowden were in use in the first half of the 13th century, the same owners held lands in both, and Harrowden must frequently be interpreted as covering both or either of the Harrowdens. In 1236 2 knights' fees in Harrowden were entered among the 9½ fees held by Simon 'Major' of the fee of Huntingdon,¹² while in 1242 among the fees which Isabel de Brus held of the honor of Huntingdon was a fee in Great Harrowden which Geoffrey de Leuknor held of her and 1½ fees which the same Geoffrey was holding of her in Little Harrowden and Clipston.¹³ Geoffrey de Leuknor and Sibyl his wife granted a messuage in Great Harrowden to Sulby Abbey on condition of anniversary masses being said for them both.¹⁴ Geoffrey was succeeded by his son Ralph,¹⁵ who in 1284 was holding 2 knights' fees in Great and Little Harrowden of Walter de Huntercumbe, who had apparently married a daughter of Robert de Muschamp.¹⁶ Ralph's son Geoffrey died s.p.¹⁷ and had been succeeded by his brother John de Leuknor in 1316, when the said John was holding Harrowden.¹⁸ In 1318 John de Leuknor and Elizabeth his wife were dealing with the manors of Great and Little Harrowden.¹⁹ John de Leuknor was called upon in 1329–30 to prove his right to view of frankpledge and other franchises in Great Harrowden, Little Harrowden, and Isham. He stated that Robert de Muschamp and his ancestors had been seised of these liberties, and had granted them with the manor to Geoffrey de Leuknor his grandfather. His claim to view of frankpledge was allowed, but he failed in his other claims.²⁰

In 1341–2 Simon Simeon was dealing with messuages, land, rent, and a mill in Great and Little Harrowden;²¹ and the said Simon in 1356 was dealing with the manor of Great Harrowden by fine, together with the manors of Grafton, Finedon, and Nortoft.²² Three years later the two manors of Great and Little Harrowden, with messuages, land, and rent in Clipston and Lowick, were conveyed by him by fine to John de Leuknor and his wife Elizabeth, and by them reconveyed to himself.²³ John de Leuknor seems to have been the last Leuknor tenant of these manors, though a Robert Lewknor was still described in 1367 as of Harrowden.²⁴ Simon Simeon and his wife Eliza-



LEUKNOR. *Azure three chevrons argent.*

¹ Samuel Sharp in *Assoc. Arch. Soc. Rpts.* xv, 32.

² It was 'new built by Mr. Wentworth' when Bridges wrote: *Hist. of Northants.* ii, 102.

³ *Dict. Nat. Biog.*

⁴ The eldest son, Peter Gilbey, had joined the Benedictine Order at Ampleforth: *ex inf.* Miss Joan Wake.

⁵ *V.C.H. Northants.* i, 310.

⁶ *Ibid.* 383. See also *ibid.* 360.

⁷ Feet of F. Northants. 11 Hen. IV,

325; and see adwoson.

⁸ Farrer, *Honors and Knights' Fees*, ii, no. 78.

⁹ Feet of F. Northants. 28 Hen. III, no. 476.

¹⁰ Op. cit. (Rec. Com.), 535.

¹¹ *Bk. of Fees*, 501.

¹² *Ibid.* 934. It would seem that the manor had already passed to Geoffrey before the execution of the fine of 1244.

¹³ Add. Ch. 22003.

¹⁴ *Plac. de Quo Warr.* (Rec. Com.), 535.

¹⁵ *Feud. Aids*, iv, 1; Farrer, *Honors and*

Knights' Fees, ii, 326.

¹⁶ *Plac. de Quo Warr.* (Rec. Com.), 535.

¹⁷ *Feud. Aids*, iv, 22.

¹⁸ Feet of F. Div. Co. Hil. 11 Edw. II, no. 147.

¹⁹ *Plac. de Quo Warr.* (Rec. Com.), 535.

²⁰ Feet of F. Northants. 15 Edw. III, no. 229.

²¹ *Ibid.* Div. Co. 30 Edw. III, no. 17.

²² *Ibid.* Northants. case 177, file 81, nos. 482–3.

²³ *Cal. Pat.* 1367–70, p. 22.

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both were dealing with both manors in 1377-8,¹ and the fees held of Edward, Prince of Wales, at his death in 1379 included fees in Great and Little Harrowden, Clipston, Isham, &c., formerly held by Geoffrey Lewknor, and at that date by Simon Simeon.²

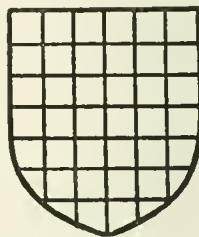
On 8 August 1386 Simon and his wife Elizabeth received a grant of free warren,³ and on 18 December 1387 Simon died seised of the manors of Great and Little Harrowden, both held of the honor of Huntingdon by knight service.⁴ A year later Elizabeth granted the manors to Peter Muslee and others,⁵ by whom the manors were conveyed to Sir John de la Warre and his wife Elizabeth,⁶ the widow of Simon Simeon.⁷ Sir John de la Warre in 1397-8 conveyed both manors to Master Thomas de la Warre, Canon of Lincoln, and others, to hold for life,⁸ and on 27 July 1398 died seised of them in reversion, the said Thomas, his brother, being his heir.⁹ In the following year, 1399, the said Thomas de la Warre made a grant to Sir William Thirnyng, Nicholas Bradshaw, John Welton, and William Vaus (Vaux) of the reversion of lands, &c., in Great and Little Harrowden and Finedon after the death of Maud, wife of Henry Burdon.¹⁰

In 1408 the manor was in the hands of Sir William Thirnyng, as Sir John Lovell was returned in the inquisition then taken after his death as holding Ochecote manor of Sir William Thirnyng as of his manor of Harrowden by knight service.¹¹ Next year Sir Thomas de la Warre, clerk, made a conveyance of the manors of Great and Little Harrowden called Lewkenores to Sir William Thirnyng and others.¹² In 1413 Sir William Thirnyng was dead, and his widow Joan in possession of these manors, which she granted in that year to Sir Gerard Braybrook and others in a deed witnessed, among others, by Sir Thomas Green.¹³ This must have been followed by a grant of the manor to Sir Thomas Green of Green's Norton, as at his death on 14 December 1417 his son Sir Thomas Green was seised of a manor of Harrowden which had been granted to him and his wife Philippa by his father.¹⁴ The Thirnyngs apparently retained the lordship, as in 1428 Alice Thirnyng, presumably a daughter of Sir William, was taxed 16s. 8d. for 2½ fees in Great and Little Harrowden which John de Lewknor had formerly held.¹⁵ It would seem that her rights passed in some way to Sir William Vaux, who as a zealous Lancastrian was attainted in 1461, when his manor of Great Harrowden and its members in Little Harrowden, Isham, Orlingbury, &c., were among the lands forfeited by his attainer.¹⁶ The manor was then granted to Ralph Hastings, Esquire of the Body, on 1 May 1462.¹⁷ Sir Ralph Hastings of Harrowden, who, among other offices, was lieutenant of the castle of Guisnes in Picardy and constable of Rockingham,¹⁸ received a fresh grant in 1483 to him and his wife Anne from Richard III.¹⁹

Sir William Vaux had been slain at Tewkesbury, and on the accession of Henry VII in 1485 his son Nicholas immediately secured the reversal of his father's attainder and restoration to his lands. Sir Thomas Green, of Green's Norton, the fifth in succession of that name, died in 1506 leaving two daughters and co-heirs, the elder of whom, Anne, married, as his second wife, Sir Nicholas Vaux,²⁰ to whom she brought vast wealth and the Greens' interest in the manor of Harrowden; the younger daughter, Maud, married Sir Thomas Parr, of Kirkby in Kendal.

Sir Nicholas, who saw much service in France, was a prominent figure of the time, and on 27 July 1511 Henry VIII was his guest at Harrowden.²¹ Both Sir Nicholas and his father-in-law, Sir Thomas Green, before him had been active in inclosing lands on their Harrowden property, and for his violations of the acts against inclosures he was repeatedly summoned before the Court of Exchequer,²² but escaped penalties and was pardoned after his death,²³ which happened on 14 May 1523, less than a month after he had been created Baron Vaux of Harrowden. His wife Anne had predeceased him, and his heir, their son Thomas, who had reached the age of fourteen on the preceding 25 April, had married Elizabeth, then aged sixteen, the daughter of Anne Cheyne and of Sir Thomas Cheyne of Irlingborough, whose heir she was, the manor of Harrowden being settled on the young pair at their marriage.²⁴ By his will²⁵ Sir Nicholas Vaux made provision for his unmarried daughters by his wife Anne, Margaret, Bridget, and Maud. His son Thomas, second Baron Vaux, succeeded him. 'The boke of the accompte of the household of Thomas Vaus, Kt., Lord Harowdon, kept at his manor of Harowdon from 2 August 27 Hen. VIII to 28 October following (1535): by Robert Downall, Steward of the household' gives the family and household as consisting of 46 persons.²⁶

Lord Vaux, who has left specimens of his skill in verse-making and belonged to the more cultured circles of Henry VIII's court, lived until October 1556, when he was succeeded by his son William, who married as his first wife Elizabeth, daughter of John Beaumont, Master of the Rolls, and as his second Mary, daughter of John Tresham of Rushton.²⁷ In 1557 William, Lord Vaux, conveyed the manors and advowsons of Great and Little Harrowden to his wife's grandfather, Sir Thomas Tresham, evidently by way of a settlement.²⁸ Sir Thomas Tresham died in 1559, and was succeeded by his grandson, another Thomas, knighted in 1577. The Tresham Papers discovered at Rushton,²⁹ which



VAUX. *Checky or and gules.*

¹ Feet of F. Div. Co. 1 Ric. II, no. 1.

² Inq. p.m. 2 Ric. II, no. 57.

³ *Cal. Chart.* 1341-1417, p. 304.

⁴ Inq. p.m. 11 Ric. II, no. 48; *Cal. Close*, 1385-9, p. 384.

⁵ *Cal. Close*, 1385-9, p. 612.

⁶ Feet of F. Div. Co. Hil. 12 Ric. II, no. 6; *Cal. Close*, 1385-9, p. 661.

⁷ G.E.C. *Complete Peerage* (2nd ed.), iv, 149.

⁸ Feet of F. Northants. 21 Ric. II, no. 179.

⁹ Inq. p.m. 22 Ric. II, no. 53.

¹⁰ Add. Ch. 22005.

¹¹ Inq. p.m. 9 Hen. IV, no. 29. Sir

John Lovell's wife was also named Maud.

¹² Feet of F. Northants. 11 Hen. IV,

no. 78.

¹³ Add. Ch. 22006.

¹⁴ Inq. p.m. 5 Hen. V, no. 39.

¹⁵ *Feud. Aids*, iv, 32.

¹⁶ Inq. p.m. 4 Edw. IV, no. 45.

¹⁷ *Cal. Pat.* 1461-6, p. 195; *ibid.* 369.

¹⁸ *Pat. R.* 1 Ric. III, pt. 5, m. 28.

¹⁹ *Ibid.* m. 17.

²⁰ Harl. MS. 6066, fol. 29; *L. and P.*

Hen. VIII, i (pt. i), 438, p. 237.

²¹ *Ibid.* ii, p. 1452.

²² *Dict. Nat. Biog.*

²³ *L. and P. Hen. VIII*, iv, p. 1865.

²⁴ Exch. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), clxxxix, 15; Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), xli, 60.

²⁵ *Ibid.*

²⁶ *L. and P. Hen. VIII*, ix, 697.

²⁷ Harl. MS. 6066, fol. 29.

²⁸ Feet of F. Div. Co. Trin. 3 & 4 Ph. and M. The first wife of Sir Thomas was the daughter and co-heir of Lord Parr of Horton, uncle of Queen Catherine Parr. *N. & Q. Northants.* ii, 40. The links between both families were numerous.

²⁹ *Hist. MSS. Com. (Var. Coll.)*, iii, 76. These are now in the British Museum, Add. MSS. 39828-38.

show how much Lord Vaux leaned on his brother-in-law in the management of his affairs, contain an account of the family disputes which resulted from a settlement of the manors of Great and Little Harrowden made by Lord Vaux in 1571, under which Sir Thomas stood security for the payment of £500 each to Eleanor, Elizabeth, and Anne, the three daughters of Lord Vaux by his first wife.¹ In 1581 Lord Vaux and Sir Thomas Tresham, both zealous Catholics, were summoned before the Star Chamber and committed to the Fleet Prison. After trial in November they were recommitted to prison. But though Lord Vaux suffered much for his religion, he and his friends were reported on by a Government spy, who declared them to be 'the most markable Catholics', as 'very good subjects and great adversaries of the Spanish practices'.² Henry Vaux, the eldest son of Lord Vaux by his first wife, intending to enter religion, resigned his birthright to his half-brother George, to the great indignation of his sisters.³ George married, without the approval of his father, Elizabeth daughter of Sir John Roper and she seems to have obtained entire ascendancy over her husband, and even over his brother Ambrose, the third son of Lord Vaux, to whom the heirship had been forfeited by George's marriage without his father's consent.⁴ Ambrose was dealing with the manors in 1589 by fine,⁵ and again in 1590.⁶ George Vaux died on 13 July 1594 at Harrowden. His brother Henry was already dead, and the death of Lord Vaux followed on 20 August 1595.⁷ His heir, his grandson Edward, son of George,⁸ was brought up as a strict Catholic by his mother, who, as 'the widow Vaux', appears in the Tresham Papers to have been a cause of much trouble in the family.⁹ She was under suspicion on account of the Jesuit company which, as in the case of her sister-in-law Anne Vaux, frequented her house at Harrowden for some years¹⁰ both before and after she was put under examination there with her son, the young lord, on the discovery of the Gunpowder Plot. Their house, especially his closet, was narrowly searched, but no papers were found.¹¹

Edward Vaux, 4th Lord Harrowden, is stated in these examinations to have been then starting to ride to London on 6 November to treat for his marriage with the daughter of Thomas Howard, Earl of Suffolk, when news of 'broils in London' caused him to postpone his journey.¹² He did not escape the consequences of being related to every one implicated in the Gunpowder conspiracy and was attainted. But in 1612 his lands were restored to him,¹³ including the manors of Great and Little Harrowden, and in 1616 Lord Vaux received a grant of free warren here.¹⁴ The lady for whose hand he was an aspirant in the memorable month of November 1605 had married before that year was out, she being then a girl of nineteen, and he nearly sixty, William Knollys, Earl of Banbury,¹⁵ the marriage taking place less than two months after the death of the earl's first wife. On 10 April 1627 she

gave birth to a son, Edward, at her husband's house, and on 3 January 1630-1 to another son, Nicholas, in the home of Lord Vaux at Harrowden. The earl, then aged 85, died at the house of his physician, Dr. Grant, in Paternoster Row, on 25 May 1632, having bequeathed all his possessions to his wife by a will which mentioned no children. Five weeks later she married Lord Vaux. The question of the paternity of his wife's sons, which was to remain in dispute for generations, the House of Lords refusing to acknowledge their right to the earldom of Banbury which the Law Courts declared they possessed, was raised in 1641, when a chancery suit instituted to recover for them the property of the late Earl of Banbury procured on 14 April 1641 the decision that Edward, the elder of the two, was son and heir of the late earl. In June 1645 Edward, returning from a tour in Italy, was slain in a quarrel on the road between Calais and Gravelines, and his brother Nicholas, who had journeyed to France with his mother in 1644, assumed the title of Earl of Banbury. In 1646 Lord Vaux with his wife Elizabeth settled the manors of Great and Little Harrowden, the rectories, advowsons, free warren, &c., to the exclusion of his own heirs, on his step-son Nicholas, Earl of Banbury,¹⁶ heretofore, apparently, called Nicholas Vaux.¹⁷ Nicholas, as Earl of Banbury, in 1651 made a conveyance of these manors by fine,¹⁸ and on 27 February 1655 with his wife Isabella, daughter of Mountjoy Blount, Earl of Newport, his mother, and Lord Vaux, petitioned Cromwell to remove the sequestration on Lord Vaux's estate,¹⁹ and allow them to compound or sell, the earl being then confined in the Upper Bench prison for debt. The Countess Isabella soon after died, and on 4 October 1655 Nicholas married Anne, daughter of William, Lord Sherard of Leitrim. His mother died on 17 April 1658, and her husband Lord Vaux on 8 April 1661, both being buried at Dorking. The barony of Vaux of Harrowden then descended to Lord Vaux's only surviving brother, Henry, on whose death s.p. in 1662 it fell into abeyance (to be revived on 12 March 1838 in the person of George Charles Mostyn²⁰ of Kiddington, who traced his descent to Mary Vaux, sister of Edward, 4th Lord Vaux, wife of Sir George Symeon of Britwell). The manors of Great and Little Harrowden passed into the hands of Nicholas, Earl of Banbury, who, as no writ of summons was issued to him for the new Parliament of 8 May 1661, petitioned the king for issue of the same. Though a committee of privileges reported on 1 July 1661 that Nicholas, Earl of Banbury, was legitimate, the House of Lords declined to accept the report, and he died on 14 March 1673-4 without having been summoned. His son Charles assumed the title and succeeded to the manors of Great and Little Harrowden.²¹ He petitioned the House of Lords for a writ of summons on 10 June 1685 with no result; but his arraignment in Hilary term of 1693 as Charles Knollys, consequent upon his

¹ Com. Pleas, Deeds Enr. Hil. and East. 13 Eliz.; Recov. R. East. 13 Eliz. ro. 1044.

² Dict. Nat. Biog.; Cal. S.P. Dom. 1591-4, p. 56.

³ Hist. MSS. Com. (Var. Coll.), iii, p. xvi.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Feet of F. Div. Co. Trin. 31 Eliz.

⁶ Ibid. East. 32 Eliz.

⁷ Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), ccxlv, 121.

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ Hist. MSS. Com. (Var. Coll.), iii, 279, &c.

¹⁰ Ibid. (Salisbury MSS.), xi, 45; Cal. S.P. Dom. 1603-10, pp. 253, 259, 278, 300.

¹¹ Ibid. 256. It was Sir Thomas Tresham's son Francis whose letter of warning to his brother-in-law Lord Monteagle revealed the plot.

¹² Cal. S.P. Dom. 1603-10, p. 256.

¹³ Pat. R. 10 Jas. I, pt. 15; ibid. 11 Jas. I, pt. 6.

¹⁴ Ibid. 14 Jas. I, pt. 2.

¹⁵ He was connected by marriage with the Treshams.

¹⁶ Recov. R. Mich. 22 Chas. I; Feet of F. Div. Co. Mich. 22 Chas. I.

¹⁷ G.E.C. Complete Peerage (2nd ed.), i, 402.

¹⁸ Feet of F. Northants. Hil. 1651.

¹⁹ Cal. S.P. Dom. 1654-5, p. 55.

²⁰ He was succeeded by his grandson Hubert, 7th Lord Vaux, who died in November 1935, leaving three daughters; the barony is therefore again in abeyance.

²¹ Feet of F. Northants. Trin. 35 Chas. II; Recov. R. Trin. 35 Chas. II, ro. 66.

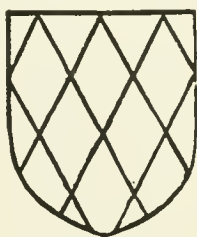
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having killed his brother-in-law, Captain Philip Lawson, in a duel, resulted in his indictment being quashed on the ground that he was wrongly entered, he being Earl of Banbury. It was, however, as Charles Knollys, esq. *alias* Charles, Earl of Banbury, that with his wife Elizabeth in 1695 he conveyed the manor of Great Harrowden by fine to Thomas Watson, esq., and George Watson.¹ Thomas Watson was the third son of Edward Watson, second Lord Rockingham, by Anne, eldest daughter of Thomas Wentworth, first Earl of Strafford, and took the name of Wentworth in 1695 on inheriting the vast estates of his mother. In 1696 with his wife Alice, daughter of Sir Thomas Proby, bart., he was dealing with the manor of Great Harrowden, and advowsons of Great and Little Harrowden as Thomas Wentworth *alias* Watson, esq.²

His son Thomas was on 28 May 1728 created Baron Wentworth of Malton in Yorkshire, and on 19 November 1734 Baron of Harrowden and Viscount Higham of Higham Ferrers in Northamptonshire, and Baron of Wath and Earl of Malton in Yorkshire. In 1744 he with his mother, Alice Wentworth, widow, made a conveyance of the manor of Great Harrowden to Henry Finch, esq.³ After the death of his cousin Thomas Watson, third Earl of Rockingham, unmarried, in 1745, he succeeded to the barony of Rockingham, and, the earldom and associated honours becoming extinct, was created Marquess of Rockingham on 14 April 1746. He married Mary, daughter of Daniel Finch, 2nd Earl of Nottingham and 6th Earl of Winchelsea, and at his death in 1756 was succeeded by their fifth but only surviving son, Charles Watson Wentworth, 2nd Marquess of Rockingham, the eminent Whig statesman. The second marquess was returned as lord of the manor of Great Harrowden in the Inclosure Act passed for Little Harrowden (q.v.) in 1781, and died s.p. in 1782, when he was buried in York Minster.



WATSON. *Argent a chevron engrailed azure between three martlets sable with three crescents or on the chevron.*



FITZWILLIAM. *Lozengy argent and gules.*

His nephew William Wentworth, 2nd Earl Fitzwilliam, son of his eldest sister Lady Anne Watson Wentworth and of William, 1st Earl Fitzwilliam, created Viscount Milton and Earl Fitzwilliam (in England) in 1746, then succeeded him here and in estates valued at £40,000 a year, and kept up a princely establishment at Wentworth Woodhouse in Yorkshire. He married Lady Charlotte Ponsonby, youngest daughter of William, Earl of Bessborough. Their son Charles William Wentworth Fitzwilliam, commonly called

Viscount Milton, was dealing with the manors of Great and Little Harrowden and Withmail Park, with the rectories, tithes, advowsons, free fishing, and free warren, courts leet and baron, mills and dovecots belonging to the same, by recovery in 1807,⁴ and succeeded his father in 1833 in the earldom as 3rd Earl Fitzwilliam. He had then for the last two years represented Northamptonshire in Parliament, and was lord-lieutenant of the county in 1853. He received the royal authorization to adopt the surname of Wentworth before that of Fitzwilliam in 1856, and died at Wentworth Woodhouse in 1857, when he was succeeded in the earldom by his second son, William Thomas Spencer, Viscount Milton. His third son, the Hon. George Wentworth-Fitzwilliam, M.P., of Milton Park, was the lord of the manor and sole landowner of Great Harrowden until his death in 1874, when the manor was held by his trustees until his son George Charles Wentworth-Fitzwilliam of Milton Park (q.v.) succeeded him as lord of the manor and sole landowner in Great Harrowden. In 1895 he sold the Hall to Lord Vaux but retained the manorial rights, which are now in the hands of his grandson William Thomas George Wentworth-Fitzwilliam, esq.⁵

One hide in Harrowden which Algar had held freely before the Conquest was returned in the Domesday Survey among the lands of Guy de Reinbuedcort as held of him by Norgiot⁶ (who also held a virgate in Wellingborough of the Bishop of Coutances, of which the soc pertained to the bishop's manor of Harrowden). The chief seat of the Reinbuedcorts was the manor of Wardon (q.v.), and the garrison of the castle of Rockingham was provided by making it a charge on that barony.⁷ This service of castle guard was soon commuted for a payment of 5s. from each knight's fee, and a return of such payments, attributed to c. 1176, or considerably later, enters 5s. from Harrowden, presumably from this hide.⁸ Margaret, the daughter and heir of Guy's son Richard, married Robert Foliot, whose son Richard Foliot left an only daughter and heir Margaret. She married Wyschard Ledet, son of Christiane Ledet, and Christiane their only daughter married, as her first husband, Henry de Braybrook, as her second, Gerard de Furnival. Under the barony of Wardon, Gerard in 1235 was paying for one fee in Cogenho and Harrowden, &c.⁹ The latter fee was presumably that which Nicholas de Cogenho held in 1242 of Christiane Ledet;¹⁰ and the Harrowden portion of it probably corresponded to the hide in Harrowden which Nicholas de Cogenho held in the 12th century of the king's fee.¹¹ This fee appears next to have been held by the de Cogenhos with their manor of Cogenho (q.v.) as of the fee of Haversham: for in 1284 William de Cogenho, son and heir of Nicholas,¹² was holding one fourth part of a fee in Great Harrowden of John de Haversham, who held of the king.¹³ In 1349 Giles de Cogenho died holding land, rent, and a water-mill at Harrowden, with his manor of Cogenho,¹⁴ and his son John, who succeeded him, died in 1361 seised of the reversion of a manor in Harrowden held of Fulk de Birmingham as of the fee of Haversham.¹⁵ His grandson William died without issue and his sister Agnes carried the property

¹ Feet of F. Northants. Hil. 6 Wm. III; ibid. Mich. 10 Wm. III.

² Ibid. Mich. 8 Wm. III.

³ Ibid. Trin. 17 Geo. II.

⁴ Recov. R. Trin. 47 Geo. III, ro. 176.

⁵ Kelly, *Directory of Northants.* (1936).

⁶ *V.C.H. Northants.* i, 343a.

⁷ Ibid. 295.

⁸ *Red Bk. of Exch.* (Rolls Ser.), ii, p. cclxxxi.

⁹ *Bk. of Fees*, 495.

¹⁰ Ibid. 931.

¹¹ *V.C.H. Northants.* i, 383.

¹² *Cal. Fine R.* 1272-1307, p. 150.

¹³ *Feud. Aids*, iv, 1.

¹⁴ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* ix, 374.

¹⁵ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 35 Edw. III, pt. 1, no. 55.



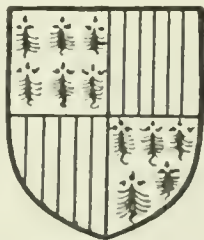
GREAT HARROWDEN HALL: THE CHAPEL OF ST. HUBERT



GREAT HARROWDEN CHURCH: INTERIOR, LOOKING EAST

by marriage to John Cheyney,¹ and after this the Harrowden manor appears to have been absorbed into that of Cogenho (q.v.).

Another manor in Harrowden called *HARROWDENS MANOR*, held in 1486 of Nicholas Vaux,² originated in property which the Harrowden family were holding at an early date in both Harrowdens. In 1226-7 a fine was levied between Simon de Harrowden and Richard, parson of the church of Harrowden, of land in that parish.³ This Simon was probably the Simon son of Adam of Harrowden who quitclaimed to the convent of Sulby the church of Great Harrowden.⁴ In 1298 Adam son of Simon de Harrowden and his wife Alice received a grant of a messuage and virgate of land in Great Harrowden⁵ from Sir Ralph de Leuknor. The Harrowdens, who frequently appear in public employment in Northamptonshire and elsewhere in the 14th century,⁶ held manors in Great and apparently in Little Harrowden. A canopied brass in Great Harrowden church records the death in 1423 of William de Harrowden, who married Margaret (d. 1441), daughter and heir of Sir Giles St. John of Plumpton. Their son William married Margaret, daughter of William Vaux and aunt of Sir Nicholas Vaux, by whom he had two sons, Richard and Thomas.⁷ By his will, dated 28 May 1447, he directed that his body should be buried in the south part of Great Harrowden church at the feet of William and Margaret Harrowden, his father and mother. He bequeathed to his wife Margaret all his lands and tenements called Horneres Key in London towards the maintenance of his son Thomas, with remainder to Richard Harrowden, his son and heir.⁸ Both brothers must have died s.p. before their mother, who, on 2 October 1486, as Margaret Harrowden, widow, died seised of a manor of Great Harrowden called Harrowdens Manor, held of Nicholas Vaux.⁹ Margaret, who also held the manors of Plumpton and Wold, was succeeded by her daughter Margaret Garnon, aged 60,¹⁰ who had married as her first husband Henry Skenard, or Skinnerton, by whom she had a daughter Jane.¹¹ This daughter Jane married Sir Richard Knightley, and carried to her husband the manor or manors of Great and Little Harrowden, which she settled on her second son Edmund with the manors of Morton Pynkney and Plumpton.¹² Sir Edmund Knightley died on 12 September 1542, seised of these manors. At the death of his brother and heir male, Sir Valentine Knightley, in 1566 this Harrowden



KNIGHTLEY. Quarterly ermine and pale or and gules.

property descended to his son Richard, and was then returned as held of Sir Thomas Griffin,¹³ by service unknown, as of his manor of Wardon.¹⁴ Apparently the Knightley manors had been formed out of lands belonging to the Cogenhos and Harrowdens held partly of the barony of Wardon and partly of the honor of Huntingdon, and the Wardon overlordship had come to be regarded as applying to the whole. After this date the manor appears to have lost its identity and been absorbed into the Knightley property.

In 1286-7 Ralph de Leuknor granted a messuage and land in Great Harrowden to John son of Walter de Boketon¹⁵ (Boughton), who in 1291 made a grant of a rent in Great Harrowden to Richard le Den and Joan his wife.¹⁶ This was probably the property granted by Thomas de Boketon in 1324 to Sir John de Harrowden, parson of Stoke Bruerne, as a yearly rent of 8 marks from a messuage in Great Harrowden with the fourth part of a knight's fee.¹⁷ It may possibly have been included in the messuages, lands, mill, and rent in Great and Little Harrowden, which together with the manor of Finedon were in 1339-40 granted to the same parson and to William de Thorp by Robert Everard of Lubenham, chaplain, and William de la Bruere of Finedon,¹⁸ and in 1341-2 by William de Thorp to Simon Simeon.¹⁹

Licence was obtained in 1331 for John, parson of the church of Stoke Bruerne, to enfeoff Thomas Wake of Liddell of land and rent of the yearly value of £20 in Great and Little Harrowden, held in chief, for regnant to a house of religious men of any order he pleased, to be founded by him in the town of Great Harrowden; but it was cancelled on 20 June 1336.²⁰

The church of *ALL SAINTS* consists *CHURCH* of chancel, 36 ft. 9 in. by 17 ft. 9 in., with vestry on the north side; clerestoried nave, 45 ft. by 19 ft. 4 in.; north aisle, 12 ft. 6 in. wide; north porch, and west tower, 12 ft. by 11 ft. 4 in., all these measurements being internal. The building had formerly a south aisle, which being very ruinous was taken down early in the 18th century.²¹ The tower was originally surmounted by a spire.²² The chancel was very extensively restored in 1845, the north wall and the upper part of the east and south walls being then rebuilt and a new roof erected, and the church was further restored in 1896. When the south aisle was taken down the new outer wall of the nave was erected on the line of the arcade, which was left standing, the old windows and doorway being inserted between the arches. These windows, which are of three lights with tracery formed by the forking and intersection of the mullions, and the arcade appear to be of late-13th-century date.²³ This indicates a 13th-century church with nave and south aisle the same size as at present, but

¹ Bridges, i, 347; *Feud. Aids*, iv, 42.

² *Cal. Inq. p.m. Hen. VII*, i, 295.

³ Feet of F. Northants. 11 Hen. III, no. 171.

⁴ Add. Ch. 22000.

⁵ Hart. Ch. 49 D 29.

⁶ *Cal. Close*, 1296-1302, p. 445: Robert de Harrowden, Justice of the Forest this side Trent, 1301; *ibid.* 1381-5, pp. 291, 415, 497: John Harrowden, knight of the shire for Oxford, 1380, 1383; *ibid.* 656, for Northants. 1388; *Cal. Pat.* 1358-61, p. 152: John and William de Harrowden, Comm. of Oyer and Terminer to 1358.

⁷ Bridges, *Hist. of Northants.* i, 254.

⁸ *Ibid.* ii, 102. On 18 August 1471 Richard Harrowden, late of Harrowden

alias of Easton Neston, gentleman, received a general pardon; *Cal. Pat.* 1467-77, p. 271.

⁹ *Cal. Inq. p.m. Hen. VII*, i, 295.

¹⁰ *Ibid.*

¹¹ Baker, *Hist. of Northants.* ii, 379.

¹² Exch. Inq. p.m., deciii, 5.

¹³ The Griffins had obtained the fee of Wardon by marriage with an heiress of the Latimers, who represented Christiane Ledet.

¹⁴ Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), cxliii, 54.

¹⁵ Feet of F. Northants. case 175, file 55, no. 229.

¹⁶ *Ibid.* file 56, no. 290.

¹⁷ Add. Ch. 22004.

¹⁸ Feet of F. Northants. 13 Edw. III, case 177, file 75, no. 185.

¹⁹ *Ibid.* 15 Edw. III, case 177, file 76, no. 229.

²⁰ *Cal. Pat.* 1330-4, p. 179; 1334-8, p. 277. John the parson of Stoke Bruerne appears also as John a la Fountayne, or John atte Welle of Harrowden; *Cal. Pat.* 1317-21, p. 289; 1340-3, p. 488.

²¹ Bridges, *Hist. of Northants.* ii, 104.

²² *Ibid.* It was standing when Bridges wrote. The date of its demolition is not recorded.

²³ The wall is almost flush with the face of the piers, but internally one has been left partly exposed, showing it to be an octagon with hollowed sides and small shafts on the main faces. The arches and capitals are moulded.

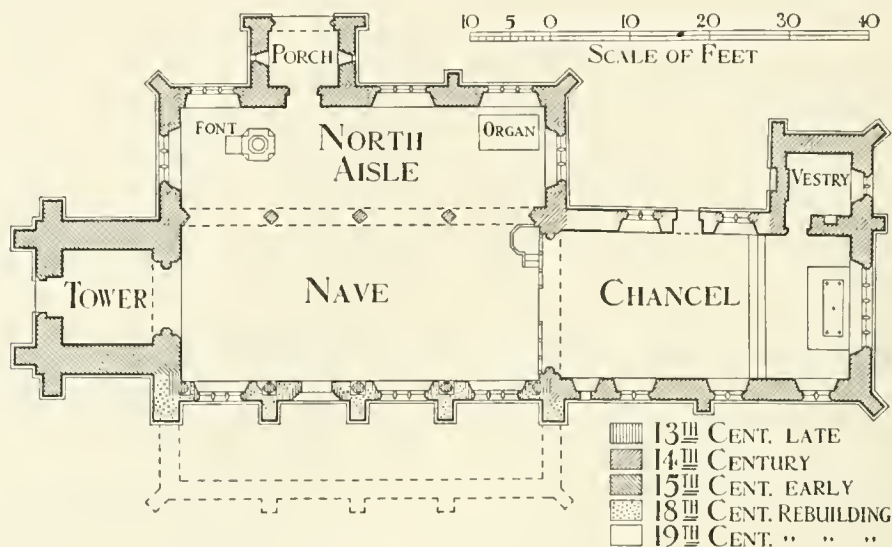
A HISTORY OF NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

evidence of a north aisle is wanting. The chancel was rebuilt on its present lines in the 14th century, and a north aisle was then added or rebuilt. The vestry, at the east end of the north wall of the chancel, is coeval with the chancel itself and was not rebuilt at the time of the restoration. The tower and clerestory are additions of about 1400. The parapets of the chancel are plain, but elsewhere they are battlemented, and the roofs are of low pitch leaded.

The east and south walls of the chancel are of grey rubble about two-thirds of their height, above which, like the north wall, they are faced with coursed ironstone. The east window is of five trefoiled lights with

has an original moulded rood-loft beam and modern oak vaulting carrying a vine pattern cornice.

The 14th-century north arcade consists of four pointed arches of two moulded orders springing from pillars and responds composed of four rounded shafts with hollows between, and with moulded capitals and bases. The north aisle windows are all of three cinquefoiled lights with four-centred heads, that at the west end being partly renewed, and the doorway has a continuous moulding. At the east end of the aisle is a mutilated 15th-century pillar piscina. The porch appears to be a 15th-century addition with flat-pitched gable and pointed arch of two rounded orders. There



PLAN OF GREAT HARROWDEN CHURCH

reticulated tracery and has a moulded arch and shafted jambs. In the south wall are three 14th-century ogee-headed windows and two in the north wall, all of two trefoiled lights with a quatrefoil above, and the window of the vestry is of the same type. At the west end of the south wall is a blocked low-side window with pointed head breaking the string which runs round the chancel externally at sill level. Between the windows on the north side is a modern priest's doorway. The piscina and triple sedilia are original and form a single composition of four moulded trefoliated arches on triple shafts with moulded capitals and bases. The three seats are on the same level, and the arches are set below the moulded string which runs at sill level along the south and north walls. The pointed doorway to the vestry, or priest's chamber, has continuous moulded jambs and head, with bases to the middle round member. The 14th-century chancel arch is of two hollow-chamfered orders, the innermost on half-octagon responds with moulded capitals. In the north respond, facing east, is a narrow pointed recess, or niche, about 4 ft. 8 in. above the floor.

The oak rood screen remains, with wide middle opening and three upper traceried panels on either side and solid panels below. The screen is of late-14th-century date, a very good example of the period, and

are four clerestory windows on each side, of two cinquefoiled lights with quatrefoil in the head, those on the south, since the removal of the aisle, being high above the windows of the nave.

The tower is of four stages with battlemented parapet and angle pinnacles, and is faced with closely jointed grey ashlar. On the west side is a pointed doorway and a two-light window in the third stage, but on the north and south the three lower stages are blank. The bell-chamber windows are of two cinquefoiled lights with a small quatrefoil in the head, and the arch to the nave is of two chamfered orders. Above it is a blocked round-headed opening.

There are extensive remains of a painted Doom over the chancel arch, and fragments of wall painting with architectural and floral detail in the north aisle.

In the chancel are the mutilated remains of the splendid brass of William Harrowden, 1423, and Margaret his wife, daughter of Sir Giles St. John. The figures still remain in position, but the pilasters, canopy work, two shields, part of the inscription, and the labels above the figures have been removed. The man is in a complete suit of plate armour, his feet resting on a dog, and the lady wears a hooded veiled head-dress and cloak, or mantle open in front.¹

In the north aisle is a grave-slab inscribed round the

¹ Hudson, *Mont. Brasses of Northants*. The inscription now reads '... obiit decimo die mensis ... cccc vicesimo tertio et dna Margareta uxor ejus filia et heres

Egidii Seynt john militis qui obiit ... die mensis ... ano dñi millimo cccc ... quor3 animabus propicietur deus Amen. Provi-

deant cuncti sic transit gloria mundi.' The man's figure is 3 ft. 7 in. long and the woman's 3 ft. 4½ in.

edge in lombardic characters 'Ici git une femme Luce de Asheby Deu de sa alme eit verroy merci', and another at the east end of the aisle retains part of an inscription of the same period. In the nave is a stone dated 1588 and in the chancel two large blue slabs the inscriptions of which are indecipherable, and one to Roger Charnock (d. 1651).¹ There is an oak chest in the vestry dated 1684.

There are three bells: the first an alphabet-bell, with a stamp used by Thomas Newcombe (1562-80), the second by Hugh Watts 1629, and the tenor by Thomas Clay 1715,² all cast at Leicester.

The plate consists of a silver cup of 1635, and a patent of 1695, the latter given by the Hon. Mrs. Wentworth.³

The registers before 1812 are as follows: (i) baptisms and burials 1672-1782, marriages 1672-1754; (ii) baptisms and burials 1782-1812; (iii) marriages 1754-1812. There are churchwardens' accounts from 1683 to 1796.

The rectory and advowson were *ADVOWSON* granted to Sulby Abbey early in the 13th century by Mary de Muschamp and confirmed by Robert de Muschamp in 1227.⁴ Simon son of Adam de Harrowden having also renounced his claims in favour of the abbey.⁵ In 1227 Hugh, Bishop of Lincoln, with the consent of the dean and chapter granted a pension of two marks yearly from the church of Great Harrowden and chapel of Little Harrowden to Sulby Abbey as patrons of the advowson, the grant to take effect after the decease of the rector, Richard de Cantia.⁶ In 1291 the church was taxed at £10.⁷ The rectory was returned in 1535 as appropriated to the monastery of Sulby and the annual value of the vicarage as £13 6s. 8d.⁸ On 13 July 1547 the rectory, church, and advowson of the vicarage of Harrowden were granted under the will of Henry VIII to the College of St. Mary the Virgin and All Saints of Fotheringhay.⁹ After the dissolution of that college they were granted in 1549 to Edward Bury of Estwode, co. Essex,¹⁰ but shortly after had passed into the hands of Wilgeford Tanfield,¹¹ widow, who in 1564 conveyed the rectories and advowsons of Great and Little Harrowden with all tithes of grain and hay to Sir Humphrey Stafford and Miles Orchard.¹² Her sale to Sir Humphrey of the same for £500 resulted in Chancery proceedings being instituted against her in 1569 by her brother-in-law Simon

Harcourt of Staunton Harcourt, co. Oxon.¹³ By Sir Humphrey Stafford the parsonage was leased to Roger Jarnock or Charnock, probably the same Roger Charnock of Great Harrowden who in 1588 contributed £25 to the defence of the country at the time of the Spanish invasion,¹⁴ and this lease was also the subject of Chancery proceedings.¹⁵ George Charnock, gent., made the presentation in 1622,¹⁶ and in 1648 Nicholas Bacon of Gray's Inn, esq., brought a suit against Roger Charnock, younger brother of John Charnock of Islington, in connexion with a mortgage of the rectory.¹⁷ Charnock of Harrowden appears in a list of delinquents of that year,¹⁸ and in 1661 Francis Gray presented to the church.¹⁹

In 1665 John Heron and his wife Alice were holding the rectories and advowsons of Great and Little Harrowden,²⁰ of which in 1672 John Heron with his wife Susan made a conveyance to Francis Sherrard and John Hall.²¹ The rectory next appears in the hands of Nicholas Bacon, and of William, Thomas, and Richard Bacon, who conveyed it to Robert Underwood and John Makernes in 1680.²² It was held with the manors of Great and Little Harrowden in 1683 by Charles called Earl of Banbury,²³ and since then has been held with the manor of Great Harrowden. The value of the vicarage was augmented in 1719 by a grant of tithes from the Hon. Thomas Wentworth and his son Thomas.²⁴

Sir Nicholas Vaux, who died in 1523, directed by his will that a chantry of one priest should be established in Great Harrowden Church;²⁵ but there is no evidence of his wishes having been carried out.

The Wentworth Charity. A customary payment of 6s. a week is made by Earl Fitzwilliam out of his estate in this parish. Half the money is given to two poor widows and the other moiety to other poor of Great Harrowden and Higham Ferrers. This payment is ascribed by tradition to a gift by Mr. Thomas Wentworth. A sum of £1 1s. yearly is also paid on Lord Fitzwilliam's account in lieu of a treat or entertainment at Christmas. This sum is distributed among the other poor who participate in the weekly payment.

There are four almshouses in the parish occupied by poor widows and the buildings have been occasionally repaired at Lord Fitzwilliam's expense and occasionally at that of the parish.

LITTLE HARROWDEN

Hargedone (xi cent.); Little Harudone, Harewedge (xiii cent.).

Little Harrowden is an agricultural parish and village lying to the north of Great Harrowden and 3 miles north of Wellingborough on the road from Wellingborough to Kettering. In its eastern districts it is liable

to floods from the River Ise, which for some distance forms its eastern boundary. Hill Top, near the centre of the parish, reaches a level of about 300 ft.; and about 350 ft. is reached in the west. It has an area of about 1,575 acres, of which a considerable proportion is arable land. The soil is of a good fertile mixed character;

¹ Bridges, *op. cit.* ii, 105, noted an 'antique marble' near the altar rails inscribed round the edge 'Marmore velatus jacet hic Simon tumulus ex Harroudona quem celis Christe corona'.

² North, *Ch. Bells of Northants.* 298, where the inscriptions are given. The second is one of Watts's 'Nazarenes'.

³ Markham, *Ch. Plate of Northants.* 149.

⁴ Add. Chs. 22001-2.

⁵ Ibid. 22000.

⁶ Add. Ch. 21999.

⁷ *Tax. Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), 39.

⁸ *Valor Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), iv, 300, 305.

⁹ Pat. R. 1 Edw. VI, pt. 1.

¹⁰ Ibid. 3 Edw. VI, pt. 10, m. 14.

¹¹ Star Chamb. Proc. Edw. VI, viii, 20. She was of the family of Tanfields of Gayton (q.v.).

¹² Feet of F. Northants. Mich. 6 & 7 Eliz.

¹³ Chan. Proc. (Scr. 2), xci, 18.

¹⁴ *N. and Q. Northants.* i, 45.

¹⁵ Chan. Proc. (Scr. 2), xxxi, 82.

¹⁶ Inst. Bks. (P.R.O.).

¹⁷ Chan. Proc. (Scr. 2), cccxxxiii, no. 6.

¹⁸ *Cal. of Con. for Comp.* 88.

¹⁹ Inst. Bks. (P.R.O.).

²⁰ Feet of F. Northants. Trin. 17 Chas. II.

²¹ Ibid. East. 24 Chas. II.

²² Ibid. Hil. 31-2 Chas. II.

²³ *Recov. R. Trin.* 35 Chas. II, ro. 66.

²⁴ Bridges, *Hist. of Northants.* ii, 104.

²⁵ Chan. Inq. p.m. (Scr. 2), ii, 60.

A HISTORY OF NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

substratum loamy, Great Oolite, limestone, sand, and ironstone. The chief crops are cereals. The population, which in 1801 was 284, in 1931 was 698. It is mainly engaged in agriculture, but some shoemaking is done.

In the extreme north of the parish are Big Covert and Ashpole Plantation with Frisby Lodge between them. Finedon Iron Works on the eastern border of the parish were established in 1866 by the Glendon Iron Ore Company, and at one time had six blast furnaces in use, but now are disused. There are two good gravel pits, the soil, partly clay, being gravelly in the lower lands.

The village lies along a road branching from the main road to Kettering from Wellingborough, where the parish narrows to a mere strip. At its centre is St. Mary's Church, lying to the east of the road, with the manor house opposite it on the west. To the north of the church is the school, built in 1851, and enlarged in 1876 and 1899 to hold 220 children. South of it is the Methodist chapel and the infants' school. The chapel was built in 1882.

In the Domesday Survey *LITTLE MANORS HARROWDEN* was entered among the Harrowden properties included in the lands of the Bishop of Coutances. One and a half hides 'in another Hargedone' held of the bishop by Wakelin, valued with 2½ hides which Wakelin held of him in Great Harrowden (q.v.), and 1 hide 1 virgate in the hands of Hardwin, a man of Wakelin's, which Siurd had held freely in King Edward's time, and whose value had risen from 20s. to 40s.,¹ appear to have corresponded, roughly, to Little Harrowden. The bishop's Harrowden lands had been forfeited and redistributed before the taking of the 12th-century Northamptonshire Survey, but the first property previously mentioned was apparently represented by lands still held with Great Harrowden (q.v.), and the second by a hide of the fee of William de Curcy which Reygold held,² and which seems to have been the origin of the manor of Little Harrowden, whose first recorded owner was William Raymond.³ The distinctive appellation, Little Harrowden, was already in existence in 1227;⁴ and Henry de Raunds, who succeeded William Raymond in the manor, made a conveyance of land in Little Harrowden to Robert son of Henry of Northampton in 1237.⁵ In 1316 William de Raunds was entered with John de Leuknor as holding in Harrowden by knight service,⁶ and his share included evidently the manor of Little Harrowden, for which in 1329 William de Raunds claimed view of frankpledge as appurtenant to this manor, of which his great-grandfather Henry de Raunds had been enfeoffed by William Raymond.⁷ He stated that the manor was held of the honor of Huntingdon.

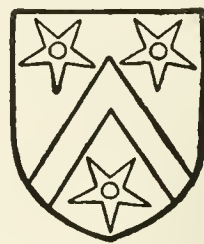
Little Harrowden descended with the manor of Raunds (q.v.) to the Gages until 1553, when George Gage and Cecily his wife conveyed it to Anthony Shuckborough.⁸ Thomas Shuckborough senior and

Bridget his wife were dealing with the manor of Little Harrowden *alias SHUCKBOROUGH* in 1611⁹ and 1619,¹⁰ and Thomas Shuckborough junior and Eleanor his wife in 1623 granted it to John Sanderson,¹¹ who with his wife Cecily and John Sanderson junior in 1632 conveyed it to Edward Vaux, Lord Harrowden.¹² In 1646 he settled all his Harrowden property on his wife with remainder to her son Nicholas Knollys, Earl of Banbury;¹³ and at the marriage of the latter with his second wife, Anne Sherard, he settled these manors in jointure on her with Orlingbury, Boughton (q.v.), &c.¹⁴ Anne, his eldest daughter by his first wife Isabel, eldest daughter to Mountjoy, Earl of Newport, married Sir John Briscoe, who, according to Baker, purchased Little Harrowden Manor from his wife's half-brother Charles, called Earl of Banbury.¹⁵ He mortgaged it with Boughton to John Lord Ashburnham, with whom and with others in 1718 he conveyed it with court leet, court baron, view of frankpledge, and free fishing to Richard Young, esq.¹⁶ Since that date it has descended in the family of Young of Orlingbury (q.v.).¹⁷

The other manor of Little Harrowden previously referred to can be traced back to the fee and a half in Little Harrowden and Clipston which was held in 1242 with a fee in Great Harrowden of Isabel de Brus, of the honor of Huntingdon, by Geoffrey de Leuknor,¹⁸ and in 1284 by Ralf de Leuknor.¹⁹ This manor was a member of the manor of Great Harrowden²⁰ and has always been held with that manor (q.v.). In the 14th century the Greens of Green's Norton appear to have been already tenants in the manor under the Simeons, as a messuage and 3 virgates in Little Harrowden, which Sir Thomas Green had settled on his son Thomas, were delivered to the latter after his father's death in 1391.²¹

On 9 July 1607 Robert Syers, a recusant, being seized for term of his life of the manor or chief messuage of Isham and Little Harrowden, in the tenure of several persons and of a yearly value of £10, two-thirds of the same were granted to Edward Haselrigge or Heselrigg of Theddingworth (Leics.).²²

A fee in Orlingbury and Harrowden which Simon de Loges was holding in 1242 of the barony of Margaret de Rivers²³ must have included land in Little Harrowden, as Richard de Loges was in 1227 in conflict with the Abbot of Sulby about the advowson of Little Harrowden;²⁴ and in 1282 a grant of land in Little Harrowden was made by Richard de Loges of Orlingbury to Roger atte Chyrche of Isham and Alice his wife.²⁵ It presumably descended with Orlingbury (q.v.), as messuages in Little Harrowden were held by Thomas Beavys with his manor in Orlingbury in 1469.²⁶



SHUCKBOROUGH. *Sable a chevron between three pierced molets argent.*

¹ *V.C.H. Northants.* i, 310.

² *Ibid.* i, 383.

³ *Plac. de Quo Warr.* (Rec. Com.), 514.

⁴ *Cal. Pat.* 1225-32, p. 152.

⁵ Feet of F. Northants. 11en. III, file 28, no. 352.

⁶ *Feud. Aids*, iv, 22.

⁷ *Plac. de Quo Warr.* (Rec. Com.), 514.

⁸ Feet of F. Northants. Trin. 7 Edw. VI.

⁹ *Ibid.* East. 8 Jas. I.

¹⁰ *Ibid.* Hil. 16 Jas. I.

¹¹ *Ibid.* Hil. 20 Jas. I.

¹² *Ibid.* Mich. 7 Chas. I.

¹³ Feet of F. Div. Co. Mich. 22 Chas. I.

¹⁴ Baker, *History of Northants.* i, 33; Feet of F. Northants. Mich. 1655.

¹⁵ Baker, *op. cit.* i, 33. According to Bridges (*Hist. of Northants.* i, 411) Sir John Briscoe held in right of his wife who had succeeded to the manor.

¹⁶ Feet of F. Northants. East. 4 Geo. I.

¹⁷ *Ibid.* Hil. and Trin. 28 Geo. II;

Recov. R. East. 28 Geo. II, ro. 52; Kelly, *Directories.*

¹⁸ *Bk. of Fees*, 934.

¹⁹ *Feud. Aids*, iv, 1.

²⁰ *Plac. de Quo Warr.* (Rec. Com.), 535.

²¹ *Cal. Close*, 1389-92, p. 392.

²² *Pat. R.* 6 Jas. I, pt. 2, no. 17.

²³ *Bk. of Fees*, 931.

²⁴ *Cal. Pat.* 1225-32, p. 152.

²⁵ Feet of F. Northants. 10 Edw. I, no. 90.

²⁶ *Ibid.* 9 Edw. IV, no. 23.

The church of *ST. MARY* stands on the north side of the main street and consists of chancel, 23 ft. by 18 ft.; clerestoried nave, 45 ft. by 18 ft.; *CHURCH* north and south aisles, and west tower, 10 ft. 6 in. square, all these measurements being internal. The north aisle is 10 ft. wide and the south aisle 9 ft. 6 in., the width across nave and aisles being 41 ft. 8 in. The south aisle is continued eastward for about two-thirds the length of the chancel, its east end, formerly a chapel, being now used as a vestry and organ-chamber. The north aisle dates only from 1850, but takes the place of one demolished at some unknown date. The tower was originally surmounted by a spire, which fell in a storm in 1703, and has not been rebuilt.

The chancel and nave are under a single low-pitched roof with continuous plain parapets, and the chancel is faced with local ironstone. The south aisle is almost entirely covered with ivy, which completely hides a blocked doorway formerly opening to the chapel.

The oldest part of the building is the main south doorway, which dates from c. 1195, but is not in its original position. It was the south doorway of an aisleless 12th-century church, the nave of which covered the area of the existing two western bays and whose south-east angle is represented by the masonry pier of the south arcade. The doorway has a semicircular arch of four moulded orders, one of which is ornamented with chevrons, and has three jamb-shafts on each side with carved capitals and moulded bases. As rebuilt the doorway stands in front of the face of the wall, forming a kind of shallow porch.¹

To this early building a south aisle was first added, and early in the 14th century the nave appears to have been extended eastward, a new chancel built, a north aisle added, and the tower and clerestory erected. The south aisle and arcade seem also to have been remodelled about this time, the aisle being shortly after extended eastward, the church then assuming substantially its present aspect.

The chancel has diagonal angle buttresses and a pointed east window of four lights with uncusped intersecting tracery and a sexfoiled circle in the head. At the west end of the north wall is a window of two trefoiled lights with quatrefoil in the head, and in the south wall near its east end an inserted 15th-century four-centred window of three cinquefoiled lights. The piscina is contemporary with the east window and has a trefoiled head and fluted bowl. At the west end of the south wall the chancel is open to the aisle by a 14th-century arch of two orders, the inner hollow-chamfered on half-octagonal responds with moulded capitals and bases. The restored chancel arch is of two chamfered orders springing from half-round responds.

The 14th-century north nave arcade was left standing when the aisle was pulled down and was opened out when the present aisle was built. It consists of three pointed arches of two chamfered orders, springing from octagonal piers and corresponding responds with chamfered bases and moulded capitals similar to those of the chancel arch. On the south side the two western arches and the pier are of the same type but spring from a moulded corbel at the west end and from a half-round respond at the east attached to the masonry pier. The eastern arch is of two chamfered orders on half-octagonal responds with moulded capitals.

At the east end of the south aisle, now within the vestry, is a trefoil-headed piscina similar to that in the chancel. The parapet of the aisle has a band of quatrefoils its full length and up the rake of its east wall; the windows are of two lights with forked mullion, but both end walls are blank.

The tower is of three stages, with clasping buttresses and battlemented parapet with gargoyles at the angles. The west doorway is a later insertion, or may take the place of a former opening; above it is a two-light 14th-century window. The two lower stages on the north and south, and the short middle stage on the west, are blank. The bell-chamber windows are of two trefoiled lights with quatrefoil in the head, and above the hood-moulds is a blank shield. Below the parapet is a band of quatrefoils enclosing sculptured faces and foliage. The lower part of the tower arch is filled with an oak screen erected as a War Memorial (1914-18). There is no vice.

The late-15th-century chancel screen has been much restored. The altar rails are of the 18th century, and the font is late in the same period. The pulpit is modern.

There are four bells, the first, third, and tenor cast by Hugh Watts of Leicester in 1624, and the second dated 1732.²

The plate consists of a silver cup and cover paten of 1569, and a paten and flagon of 1883.³

The registers before 1812 are as follows: (i) births 1654-61 (May), baptisms 1661 (November)-1722, marriages 1654-7, 1662-3, 1681-1720, burials 1653-1727; (ii) baptisms and burials 1727-94; (iii) marriages 1754-1812; (iv) baptisms and burials 1795-1812. There are churchwardens' accounts beginning in 1783.

The church, as a chapel originally *ADVOWSON* annexed to Great Harrowden, and now forming one vicarage with it, has no separate history for its advowson, having always been held with that manor.

On the inclosure of Little Harrowden in 1781 an allotment of about 2 acres was awarded, out of lands belonging to the Marquess of Rockingham, to the churchwardens and overseers in lieu of an annuity of 20s. payable to the poor by the marquis. The allotment is let for 18s. yearly, which is distributed in cash to the poor by the Parish Council.

An allotment of 44 a. 1 r. 33 p., now let for £19 2s. annually, was set out on the inclosure to the churchwardens in lieu of their rights in the common fields in the parish. The rent is applied to church expenses.

William Aylworth's Endowed School for Great and Little Harrowden and Orlingbury was founded in 1661, to commemorate the restoration of King Charles, under the will of William Aylworth, which directed that £20 a year should be paid towards the maintenance of this free school from the testator's estate at Gumley in Leicestershire, and his house and land in Little Harrowden conveyed for a habitation for the schoolmaster, who was to be a graduate in one of the two universities, a member of the Church of England, and of a sober, peaceable, and discreet behaviour and conversation.⁴ It is attended by the children of Great and Little Harrowden.

¹ In the later masonry above the arch is a stone inscribed ANO DNI 1601 CP 18.

where the inscriptions are given.

² Markham, *Ch. Plate of Northants.* 150.

The date '1570' is inscribed on the paten.

⁴ *Coll. Top. et Gen.* iii, 330.

³ North, *Ch. Bells of Northants.* 299,

ISHAM

Hysham, Hicham, Ysham (xi cent.).

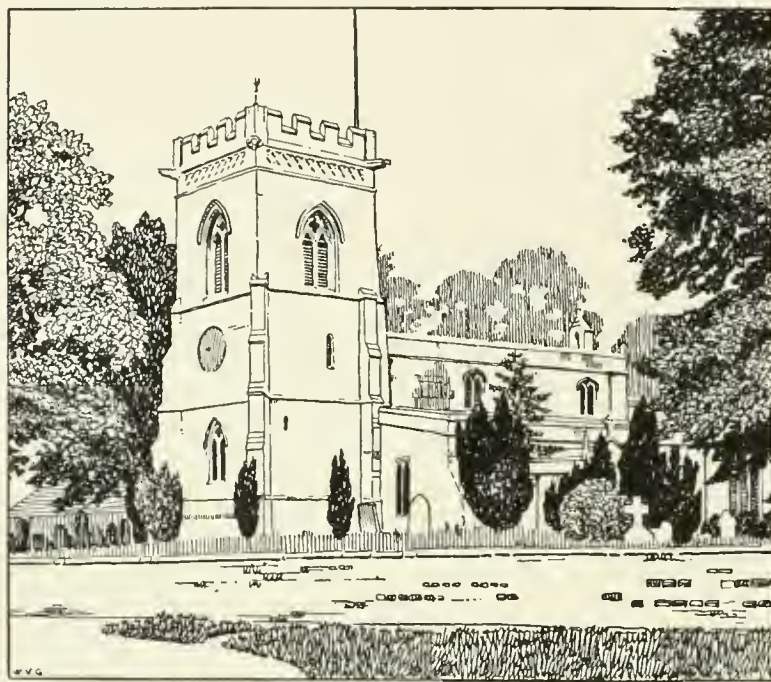
Isham, divided into Upper and Lower, is on the road from Kettering to Wellingborough, the village lying along a branch road. The Ise Brook forms its eastern boundary and separates it from Burton Latimer, in which parish the local station, on the main line of the L.M.S. railway, is situated. Pytchley lies to the north, and to the south and west Little Harrowden.

The village, which is less than half a mile south of the station, has the church of St. Peter at its centre. The rectory lies to the west of the church, and to the

and limestone, sand and ironstone. The chief crops grown are cereals.

A manor corresponding to Upper Isham *MANORS* apparently, since its chief messuage was later known as the *OVER HALL*, originated in 1 hide and 2½ virgates of land in Isham (on which was a mill rendering 10s.) held of Guy de Reinbuedcurt by Ralf; of which land the Bishop of Coutances claimed 1½ virgates and 3 small gardens. It had been held freely before the Conquest by Elwin son of Ulf, its value having risen from 5s. to 40s.²

There were also 3 virgates in Isham held by Walchelin of the Bishop of Coutances and previously held with sac and soc by Burred, the bishop's predecessor in other properties.³ After the bishop had forfeited his lands in the county, his Isham virgates appear to have been included with the Reinbuedcurt lands, in 2½ hides in Isham held in the 12th century by Henry de Isham of the fee of Daundevill.⁴ A fee in Isham was held by Henry de Isham in 1235 among the fees that Christiane Ledet had inherited from Guy;⁵ and 1½ hides in Isham were in 1284 held by Henry de Isham of Alexander Daundewy(l)e, as mesne lord, under William Latimer,⁶ the successor of Guy de Reinbuedcurt in the barony of Wardon. This barony paid for castle guard to Rockingham at the rate of 5s. for each knight's fee,⁷ and Isham is entered in an account of about 1170 as paying 5s. guard money to the castle.⁸

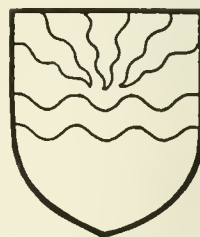


ISHAM: THE CHURCH

south of it is the smithy. When Bridges wrote there were two rectory houses for the two rectors of Upper and Lower Isham; and a house near the church had medieval features. Attached to a farm west of the church is a rectangular dovecote built of local limestone and covered with red pantiles. It appears to be of 17th-century date, though the massive oak door-frame and door may be earlier: there are 580 nesting holes.¹ A house standing back from the road to the north of the church is dated 1668. The Manor Farm is at the south-western limit of the village: at its north-eastern end is the school (public elementary), built in 1840 and enlarged in 1875-6 for 100 children: near by are the Corn Mill and the Methodist chapel. Isham Lodge is in the extreme south of the parish.

Its population was 247 in 1801; in 1871 it was 456; and in 1931 it was 365. It lies mostly at a height of 150-250 ft. and has an area of 1,401 acres. The soil is of a good fertile mixed character: subsoil Great Oolite

It was pointed out in *Northamptonshire Families*⁹ that the family of Isham, who appear as tenants at so early a date in this property, has probably dwelt in the county longer than any other family mentioned in that volume. Henry son of Henry de Isham presented to the church in 1236,¹⁰ and in 1239 was making grants of land here to Elias and James, sons of Henry, presumably his brothers.¹¹ He had died before 1249, when the presentation was made by the guardian of the heir of Henry de Isham on account of the minority of this heir.¹² Isham was in 1283 held by Henry son of Henry de Isham.¹³ From about this time the Ishams seem also to have used the name of L'Isle (de Insula), as in 1300,



ISHAM. Gules a fesse wavy argent with three piles wavy argent pointing to the fesse point.

¹ *Northants N. & Q.* i (n.s.), 210; the doorway is apparently Tudor, but the classic detail in the kneeler stones suggests a later date for the building.

² *V.C.H. Northants.* i, 343.

³ *Ibid.* 310.

⁴ *Ibid.* 382, and n.

⁵ *Bk. of Fees*, 943.

⁶ *Feud. Aids*, iv, 1.

⁷ *V.C.H. Northants.* i, 295.

⁸ *Red Bk. of Exch.* (Rolls Ser.), ii, cclxxxi.

⁹ *Op. cit.* (*V.C.H.*), i, 141.

¹⁰ *Rot. Rob. Grosseteste* (Cant. and York Soc.), 164.

¹¹ *Feet of F. Northants.* Hen. III, file 29, no. 394; *ibid.* file 30, no. 408.

¹² Bridges, *Hist. of Northants.* ii, 108.

¹³ *Cal. Ing. p.m.* ii, 208.

when Henry de L'Isle demanded from Henry son of Richard atte Hallepace services for whose performance the latter alleged William son of James of Isham to be responsible;¹ but in 1307 Robert de Ho and Beatrice his wife, who had apparently succeeded to the mesne lordship, granted to Walter de Langeton, Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield, a knight's fee in Isham with the homage and services of Henry de Isham and his heirs for the tenement he held of them.² The presentation to the church was made in 1307 by Henry de Isham, in 1314 by Henry de L'Isle of Isham, and in 1315 by William de L'Isle, lord of Isham,³ while in 1316 William de L'Isle was returned as holding Isham,⁴ and in 1317 William de Isham and Alice his wife settled the manor and advowson upon themselves and on the right heirs of William,⁵ to hold of the chief lords of the fee, and William de L'Isle presented in 1341. Other Ishams at this date were described as of Northampton,⁶ or of Pytchley,⁷ and the original Ishams had probably transferred their rights in Isham to a member of the L'Isle family by marriage. Thomas de L'Isle of Isham made a grant in 1336 to William de la Carnell of Earls Barton of the manor of Isham for life,⁸ and in 1341 presentation to the church was made by William de L'Isle, evidently the successor of Thomas, and apparently the last de L'Isle to hold this fee of Isham, since the presentation was in 1349 made by Robert de Wyk, lord of Isham.⁹ Robert de Wyk had died before 1362-3, when John, son of Thomas Caumbery de Bernak, and his wife Elizabeth conveyed the manor of Isham to Katharine, widow of Robert de Wyk of Staunford.¹⁰ It appears possible that Katharine had been the widow of William de L'Isle before she married Robert de Wyk, and that Elizabeth was William's daughter. In 1365 the presentation was made by the same John, son of Thomas Bernak.¹¹ Elizabeth Bernak presented to the church in 1404, and William Bernak in 1437. He was probably the son of Elizabeth, and identical with the William Bernak referred to in the assessment of 1428, which returned that no tax was due from the fee in Isham formerly held by William de L'Isle, because the said fee was divided between Simon Felbrygge [the husband of the widow of Ralf Green], Thomas Green, Thomas Colpepir, William Haldenby, Richard Wynter, William Bernak, and others severally.¹² The chief manor had, however, evidently remained in the hands of the Bernaks, as in 1448 the presentation was made by John Cooke of Isham, who is shown to have been acting as feoffee of William Bernak in Chancery proceedings instituted against him in that capacity by Thomas Bernak of Barnack, kinsman of William,¹³ and by Walter Dorant of Clyff and Margaret his wife, daughter of William Bernak.¹⁴ William Bernak left two daughters as his co-heirs,¹⁵ and in 1454 John Cooke of Isham delivered one-half of the manor and advowson to John Dorant, and the other half to Richard

Armeston.¹⁶ John Dorant presented to the church in 1465, and Richard Armeston in 1477. Between the two presentations John Dorant or Darraunt, described as of Colleyweston, yeoman, had forfeited his moiety of the manor and advowson to the king by attainder of high treason,¹⁷ and this moiety was on 7 March 1479 granted to Guy Walston, one of the Esquires of the King's Body.¹⁸ It reverted to the Dorant family, and in 1515 Ralph Sacheverell and Cecily his wife, daughter and heir of John Dorant, conveyed to Sir Richard Sacheverella moiety of the manor,¹⁹ which had evidently been in his hands as early as 1502, when Ralph Sacheverell presented to the church.

The previous presentation, namely that of 1497, was made by John Lowick (or Luffwick) who seems to have been the son by her first husband of Agnes daughter of William Bernak.²⁰ John Lowick's daughter and heir Margaret married Robert Pickering of Isham, the son of Thomas Pickering of Barrow Hall in Kendal. They had a son Thomas who married Margaret daughter and heir of Anthony Shuckborough of Little Harrowden and is described as nephew and heir of Anthony Lowick.²¹ This Thomas it was, apparently, who presented to the church in 1554, and who was dealing in 1599 with a moiety of the advowson, which he then conveyed, probably for settlement on his son John, to Thomas Mulsho and Thomas Shuckborough.²² After bequeathing his mansion house in Isham called the Over Hall to his son John by will, he died seised of a moiety of the manor and of the advowson called the Over Fee on 1 April 1609, leaving a son and heir Robert aged 40.²³ John Pickering of Isham was the third son of his father Thomas and married Patience Spicer, according to the Visitation pedigree, which gives him a family of four daughters and no sons. In 1637 John Pickering and Patience his wife conveyed to trustees all his lands in Isham, including the reversion and remainder of the Over Hall, immediately after the death of Sara Weldon, then wife of Robert Weldon, clerk, and late wife of Thomas Pickering, deceased, father of the said John.²⁴ Two years later the manor appears to have been held by the Ekins family, who were dealing with it between 1639 and 1658.²⁵ The transactions between John Pickering and John Ekins figure in the accounts of the High Commission Court, before which John Ekins of Isham was summoned in 1634 on a charge of irreverent behaviour in church, 'causing to be told over upon the communion table and tendering to the use of John Pickering £100 in performance of a bargain for houses and lands', of sitting with his hat on during divine service, saying in the streets of Isham that a ploughman was as good as



PICKERING. *Ermine a lion azure crowned or.*

¹ Harl. Chart. 52, C. 7.

² Feet of F. Northants. 35 Edw. I, no. 516.

³ Bridges, *Hist. of Northants.* ii, 108.

⁴ *Feud. Aids*, iv, 22.

⁵ Feet of F. Northants. 10 Edw. II, no. 291.

⁶ *Cal. Close*, 1323-7, p. 524.

⁷ *Assize R.* 1343, m. 29. And see *Northants. Families (P.C.H.)*, 141.

⁸ *Cal. Close*, 1333-7, p. 691.

⁹ Bridges, *Hist. of Northants.* ii, 108.

¹⁰ Feet of F. Northants. 36 Edw. III,

no. 518.

¹¹ For the use of the name Cambrey by the Barnacks, see *P.C.H. Northants.* ii, 465, n. 11.

¹² *Feud. Aids*, iv, 33.

¹³ *E. Chan. Proc.* xxiv, 53.

¹⁴ *Ibid.* 54.

¹⁵ *P.C.H. Northants.* ii, 465. The husband of Agnes, the second daughter, is there said to have been Ralph Luttwick; apparently she remarried Richard Armeston: see below.

¹⁶ *Close R.* 33 Hen. VI, m. 33.

¹⁷ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 18 Edw. IV, no. 8.

¹⁸ *Cal. Pat.* 1476-85, p. 172.

¹⁹ Feet of F. Northants. Mich. 7 Hen. VIII.

²⁰ *Visitation of Northants.*, edited by Walter C. Metcalfe, p. 43.

²¹ *Ibid.*

²² Feet of F. Northants. Mich. 41 and 42 Eliz.

²³ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), cccviii, 115.

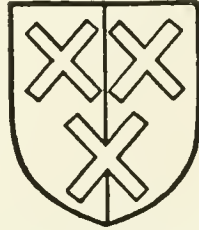
²⁴ *Recov. R. East.* 14 Ch. I, m. 3.

²⁵ Feet of F. Northants. Hil. 15 Chas. I; *ibid.* Mich. 1654; *ibid.* Hil. 1658.

A HISTORY OF NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

a priest, &c.¹ John Ekins was fined £100, this fine being reduced in 1635 to £20.² It is interesting to note that the decree ordering him to pay this fine and to make submission in Isham Church was procured against John Ekins by Robert Weldon, rector of Stony Stanton. John Ekins succeeded in 1641 in obtaining relief from this decree and in recovering damages, Robert Weldon praying to be excused from personal attendance when Ekins's petition for relief was heard.³ It seems possible that Robert Weldon may have had personal reasons for objecting to the transactions between John Pickering and John Ekins more weighty even than his objections to the manner and place of the above payment.

The moiety of this manor held in 1575 by the Sacheverells appears to have passed to the Lanes, who were already holding lands in Isham in 1502, William Lane dying in that year seised of a toft and a virgate of land there held of Sir Nicholas Vaux, in which he was succeeded by his son and heir Ralph, aged 36.⁴ After Ralph Sacheverell presented in 1502 the presentation was next made by the king by reason of the minority of Robert son of Sir Ralph Lane, who may be assumed therefore to have held a moiety of the Bernak inheritance. Owing to the sales and subdivisions indicated in the assessment of 1428 it is not easy to distinguish the manors of Isham in the 15th–16th centuries, but Sir Robert Lane subsequently transferred a manor of Isham which was probably this moiety to the Lanes of Kettering, by whom a manor of Isham was held which had its origin in lands, part of the L'Isle fee of Isham, originally held by a branch of the Green family, from whom it had come to them through the Culpeppers and Harringtons. Three branches of the Green family were represented in 1428 among the tenants of the fee of William de L'Isle in Isham, and they had held lands there for some time. 'Henry del Grene of Isham' was in 1337 appointed to buy wool in the county of Northampton⁵ and in 1337, 1338, 1343,⁶ and subsequent years received allowances of wool, &c. Simon Felbrigge in 1428, in right of his wife, held the lands of these Greens of Isham.⁷ Thomas Green, who was described as of Isham in 1339 when Richard de Toryngton of Berkhamstede acknowledged a debt to him of £200, was the predecessor of Sir Thomas Green who died seised of a manor of Isham in 1420 and was succeeded by Thomas Green his son and heir,⁸ who held in 1428. Nicholas Green of Isham, who in 1350 witnessed a grant by Sir Robert de Morlee of lands in Wellingborough,⁹ was the owner of lands which in 1428 appeared in the hands of Sir Thomas Colpeper in Isham, and which were later held by the Lanes of Kettering. On 14 February 1367 Athelina or Alana de Bruys quitclaimed to



LANE. Party gules and azure three saltires argent.

Nicholas Green and his wife Joan the manors of Exton (co. Rutland) and Conington (co. Huntingdon) in a deed dated at Isham.¹⁰ In 1378 Sir Thomas Colepeper and his wife Eleanor, who was the daughter and heir of Nicholas Green¹¹, acquired all the lands of the said Nicholas in Isham, Pytchley, and elsewhere in Northamptonshire.¹² Sir Thomas Colepeper appeared in 1428 as one of the tenants among whom the fee of William de L'Isle was divided, and in 1433¹³ a manor of Isham was in the hands of his son Sir John Colepeper, who with his wife Juliana then made a conveyance of it with the manors of Exton and Conington. This manor of Isham was in 1513 settled by John Harrington of Exton, son of Katharine daughter of Sir John Colepeper,¹⁴ and his wife Alice, on their son John at his marriage with Elizabeth Mutton.¹⁵ This manor was described at the inquisition taken on 20 October 1524 after the death of John Harrington the elder on 6 November 1523 as held of Thomas, Lord Vaux of Harrowden, who had inherited the estates of Thomas Green, as of his manor of Harrowden.¹⁶ In 1541 John Harrington and James his son and heir conveyed the manor of Isham to John Lane and Elizabeth his wife.¹⁷ This was John Lane of Kettering, who in the inquisition taken after his death on 8 March 1546 was stated to have bequeathed a life interest in the same to his wife Elizabeth, who survived him, with remainders to his son and heir John, his two daughters, to John Lane of Walgrave, to the latter's brother William Lane, to Ralph Lane second brother of Robert Lane, a younger son of Sir Ralph Lane, deceased, to William Lane third brother of the said Robert, and to the testator's brother George Lane, in tail male.¹⁸ It was apparently not this manor, but the manor which he had inherited from his father Sir Ralph, of which Sir Robert Lane made a conveyance in 1558 to Elizabeth Lane, widow, and John Lane her son.¹⁹ John Lane of Kettering presented to the church in 1561 and had died before 1576 leaving a son and heir Basil, and the Lanes still held the manor in 1616, in which year David Lane was dealing with it by fine.²⁰

The presentations to the Upper Fee suggest that this manor (or moiety) may have been held in 1637 by William Hodges of Daventry who then presented.²¹ Apparently this manor in 1712 was in the hands of John Allicocke of Loddington (son and heir of Thomas Allicocke of Sibbertoft), who with his wife Elizabeth, daughter and heir of Moses Bathurst, formerly of Hothorpe, and their son Benjamin Allicocke, was then dealing with the manors of Loddington and Isham.²² Bridges wrote that the manor was in dispute between the Allicocks, who had a good estate in Isham (several farm-houses with 3, 4, and 5 yardlands are mentioned in this deed of 1712), and the daughters of Lady Robinson.²³

A part of the manor of Isham was in 1778 in the hands of Brook Bridges, clerk, and Anne his wife, who sold to George Huggit, clerk;²⁴ the latter appears as an owner of lands in the parish in the Inclosure Act passed

¹ *Cal. S.P. Dom.* 1634–5, pp. 122, 226, 264, &c. ² *Ibid.* 1637–8, p. 550.

³ *Hist. MSS. Com. Rept.* iv, 97, 98.

⁴ *Cal. Inq. p.m. Hen. VII*, ii, no. 621.

⁵ *Cal. Pat.* 1334–8, p. 480.

⁶ *Ibid.* 269, 425; *ibid.* 1343–6, p. 591.

⁷ *Cal. Close*, 1339–41, p. 254.

⁸ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 5 Hen. V, no. 39.

⁹ *Cal. Close*, 1349–54, p. 493.

¹⁰ *Ibid.* 1364–8, p. 366.

¹¹ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* xlvii, 56.

¹² *Cal. Close*, 1377–81, p. 117.

¹³ *Feet of F. Div. Co. Trin.* 11 Hen. VI.

¹⁴ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* xlvii, 56.

¹⁵ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), xli, 73.

¹⁶ *Ibid.*

¹⁷ *Feet of F. Northants. East.* 33 Hen. VIII.

¹⁸ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), lxxv, 40.

¹⁹ *Feet of F. Northants. Mich.* 5 & 6

Ph. and M.

²⁰ *Ibid.* Trin. 13 Jas. I.

²¹ *Inst. Bks.* (P.R.O.).

²² *Feet of F. Northants. Trin.* 11

Anne; *Com. Pleas Recov. R. Trin.* 11

Anne, rot. 3.

²³ *Hist. of Northants.* ii, 107.

²⁴ *Feet of F. Northants. Mich.* 18 Geo. III.

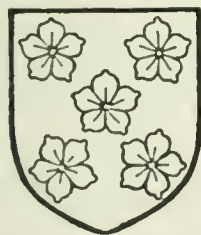
for the parish in that year, and John, Earl of Upper Ossory as lord of the manor¹ (possibly the manor held of the Huntingdon fee). By the same Act an allotment was made to John Harper, esq. The Harpers had before 1803 acquired the manorial rights of Isham, of which manor Joseph Harper, the successor of his cousin John Harper in the manor of Burton Latimer or Plassy, then levied a fine.² Thomas Wilfred Harpur³ of Burton Latimer died in 1934, and his son Captain John Latimer Harpur now holds land in Isham, but does not claim manorial rights.⁴



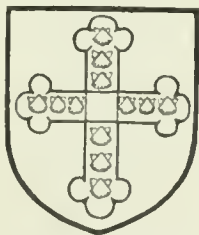
HARPER. *Argent a lion in a border engrailed sable.*

Six small virgates in Isham were entered in the Northampton Survey as held by Geoffrey of the fee of Huntingdon,⁵ though in the Domesday Survey no lands were entered as held in Isham by the Countess Judith. They must have been the origin of the manor of Isham which was afterwards returned with Little Harrowden as a member of Great Harrowden, and was later known as *HALDENBY'S MANOR* or the *MANOR OF HOLDENBY* in Isham and, as previously stated, probably corresponded to Lower Isham or a fee called the Lower Fee. In 1235 half a fee in Clipston and Isham was held of the fee of Huntingdon by Simon 'Major'.⁶ From the *Quo Warranto* returns in 1329-30 it appears that the manor of Great Harrowden with its members Little Harrowden and Isham were given by Robert de Muschamp to Geoffrey de Lewknor, from whom this property descended to his son and heir Ralph.⁷ This Isham manor descended as a member of Great Harrowden (q.v.) until the 15th century. In 1411 Maud wife of Robert Haldenby granted to John Haldenby her son a rent of half a pound of pepper from the manor of Isham.⁸ William de Haldenby of Isham appears in 1428 as holding lands in Wollaston,⁹ and had evidently succeeded to this Isham manor. The Haldenbys still held the manor in 1475, when William Haldenby of Isham, gentleman, was cited in a plea of debt to Thomas Pomeroy, prior of Holy Trinity,

Haldenby made a conveyance to Richard Humfrey of the manor of Haldenby and advowson of the church of the parish of Isham of the Lower Fee, with a dovecot, a watermill and lands.¹¹ The manor remained in the hands of the Humfreys and was at a later date held by William Humfrey of Barton Segrave; after whose death his son Thomas Humfrey of Swepton (co. Leicester) instituted Chancery proceedings¹² to recover possession of the manor of Isham commonly called Haldenbys Manor, with one water corn-mill, one fulling-mill, and appurtenances in Isham, and lands elsewhere, all of which had been settled on him, he alleged, about 34 years before by William Humfrey, whose second son he was. That this property was held of the Vaux by the Cecils in succession to the Humfreys may be inferred from one of those letters that Sir Thomas Tresham wrote to his wife at Rushton from his long and close imprisonment for recusancy. On All Saints' Day 1594 he wrote to Lady Tresham¹³ of his return to London after a temporary release: 'I alighted in Holborne, and going down Chancery Lane to my lawyer's I met Mr. Frampton, the chief manager of Sir Thomas Cecil's affairs, who begged me to go to his master, Sir Thomas, as having, he declared, been most badly dealt with by the Lord Vaux: for the widow interrupted his master's possession of Isham lands.' William, Lord Vaux of Harrowden, with his wife Mary conveyed the manor of Isham in 1595 to Richard Frampton and John Wyseman,¹⁴ to whom in the following year another conveyance of the same was made by Sir Thomas Cecil and his wife Dorothy.¹⁵ This presumably eliminated the overlordship and was followed in 1599 by a grant of the manor of Isham to Robert Syers by John Wyseman and Margery his wife, and Richard Frampton.¹⁶ It was found by inquisition of 1608 that Robert Syers, who had absented himself from church, was possessed for life of the manor and chief messuage in Isham and Little Harrowden in the tenure of several persons, and a grant of two parts of the manor was made on 9 July 1609 to Edward Heselrigge.¹⁷ Robert Syers made a settlement of the manor in 1610 on his son John and daughters Anne and Frances and died on 10 August 1618, leaving a son and heir John aged 12.¹⁸ It seems then to have been acquired by Sir William Cockayne, who died seised of it in 1627-8, when it was returned as held with 2 water-mills, &c., of the king as of the manor of Holdenby.¹⁹ Sir William was succeeded by his son Charles, who in 1629, with his wife Mary, and Mary Cockayne, widow, William Chayne, Matthew Cradock, Thomas Henchman, and James Price, made a conveyance by fine to Sir Hatton Farmer and William Allen of the manors of Rushton and of Holdenby in Isham.²⁰ Though lands in Isham were held by the Cockaynes with their manor of Rushton as late as the 19th century, conveyances of the same being made by



HALDENBY. *Azure five cinquefoils set saltirewise argent.*



HUMFREY. *Gules a cross with trefoil ends and quarter-pierced argent charged with twelve scallops sable.*



COCKAYNE. *Argent three cocks gules.*

London, executor of the will of William Lemyng, late citizen and grocer of London.¹⁰ In 1546 William

¹ Priv. Stat. 18 Geo. III, cap. 19.
² Feet of F. Northants. Trin. 43 Geo. III.

³ Burke, *Landed Gentry*, ed. 1937.

⁴ Kelly, *Directory*.

⁵ *P.C.H. Northants* i, 382.

⁶ *Bk. of Fees*, 495, 501.

⁷ Op. cit. (Rec. Com.), 535.

⁸ Add. Ch. 22015.

⁹ *Feud. Aids*, iv, 45.

¹⁰ *Cal. Pat.* 1467-77, p. 500.

¹¹ Feet of F. Northants. Hil. 37 Hen. VIII.

¹² Chan. Proc. (Ser. 2), cclxxv, 11, undated.

¹³ *Hist. MSS. Com. Rept. Far. Coll.* iii, 82-3.

¹⁴ Feet of F. Northants. Trin. 37 Eliz.

¹⁵ *Ibid.* East. 38 Eliz.

¹⁶ *Ibid.* Mich. 41 and 42 Eliz.

¹⁷ Pat. R. 6 Jas. I, pt. 11.

¹⁸ Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), cclxxv, 68.

¹⁹ Bridges, *Hist. of Northants*, ii, 107; Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), ccccxxiv, 96.

²⁰ Feet of F. Div. Co. Hil. 4 Chas. I.

A HISTORY OF NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

Barbara M. Cockayne, spinster, in 1810-11,¹ and by Elizabeth C. Cockayne, spinster, in 1821,² Holdenby Manor was probably held before 1660-2 by Robert Guy, who in those years presented to the church. The manor of Holdenby and half the advowson of Upper Isham were in 1686 in the hands of Francis Guy and his wife Elizabeth who conveyed it to Thomas Colthurst and Jonathan Gorstelow Snow.³ In 1745 Holdenby's manor was conveyed by James Langley and his wife Anne, Thomas Cannell and his wife Mary, and John Harriss and his wife Elizabeth, to George Timms, clerk,⁴ after which its history becomes obscure.

The Ramsey Chronicle shows that a manor in Isham was held in Saxon times by Earl Brithnoth, whom the chronicler describes as 'that generous benefactor of the abbey, foremost among his countrymen in honour and wealth, and for his valour in fighting against the foes of his country', and who gave his two manors of Isham and Whiston and a hide in Doddington to the abbey.⁵ Isham was confirmed to the abbey by King Edgar in 974⁶ (among the witnesses being Earl Brithnoth) by Edward the Confessor (1052-60),⁷ and by succeeding kings.⁸ But for a time the grasping sheriff Eustace succeeded in ousting the abbey from its property, which was entered in the Domesday Survey among the lands of Eustace, Sheriff of Huntingdonshire, who held of the king 1 hide and 2½ virgates of land in Isham which it was stated he had occupied by force, wronging the church of Ramsey.⁹ William II restored this property to the abbey, after an inquiry had been ordered by him,¹⁰ of which an account is given in a previous volume.¹¹

A hidage of the knights of the abbey of 1184-9 gives Niel de Lovetot as tenant of 1½ hides in Isham, for which apparently he owed, in conjunction with Henry de Withenton, who held 3½ (or 4) hides in Whiston, the service of one knight.¹² Another hidage of about fifty years later, confirming the Northampton Survey, which enters Thomas Pyel as holding 1½ hides and 2½ small virgates of the fee of Ramsey,¹³ gives Thomas Pyel as tenant of 1½ hides.¹⁴ One Henry Pyel in 1240 levied a fine with Henry son of Henry (probably Henry de Isham) of 2 virgates of land in Isham,¹⁵ and in 1253, as Henry Pyel of Isham, received from William de Brampton and Juliana his wife a messuage and half a virgate of land there.¹⁶ But the holder of the fee in 1243-4 was Thomas Pyel, who paid a fine of half a mark because of the insufficiency of his horse to perform service in Scotland.¹⁷ In 1257, an inquiry was held at the abbot's court at Broughton, at which Thomas Pyel was personally present, to establish the nature of the service due from him for the fee of Pyel of Isham, and it was found that he ought to find a nag equipped to carry the armour of four knights on every journey of

the said knights made by them in the king's service, i.e. for a possible 40 days in the year.¹⁸

The Pyel fee had in 1278 passed to the Carnells or Kernells,¹⁹ and was held by William de la Carnell of Isham who came into full court at Broughton in that year with a horse worth 10s., a sumpter saddle worth 12d., a sack worth 6d., and a 'broche', and after offering himself for the service due to the king from him was given a day to return when summoned.²⁰ In 1284 William de la Carnell was assessed for 1½ hides in Isham which he held of the Abbot of Ramsey.²¹ That the Carnells continued to hold land in Isham is shewn by a reference in 1382 to John Carnell of Isham whose box of muniments and charters John Gunmyll of Tixover had retained:²² he was possibly identical with the John Carnell who was escheator for the county.

The abbots of Ramsey were no longer holding in Isham at the Dissolution, and it would seem that they parted with the estate to the Earl of Gloucester about the end of the 13th century, as William Pyel was holding a moiety of a fee in Isham of Gilbert de Clare, Earl of Gloucester and Hertford, at his death in 1314,²³ and this half-fee, valued at 30s. yearly, was delivered to Maud the widow of Gilbert in dower.²⁴ Moreover, land in Isham held by John Carnell was included in 1387 among the fees held of Hugh, Earl of Stafford, at his death,²⁵ and in 1403 among those held of Edmund, Earl of Stafford.²⁶

The Pyels still held lands in Isham in 1398-9,²⁷ when Elizabeth Pyel, daughter and heir of Henry Pyel late burgess of Bristol, made a conveyance of the same to her cousin John Sutton of Bristol.

The temporalities of the priory of Huntingdon at the Dissolution included the farm of a croft in Isham, i.e. 6s. 4d.²⁸ A moiety of this croft, in the tenure of the rector, was granted to Giles and Gregory Isham in 1546 with half a virgate of land.²⁹ A rent of 26s. 8d. in Isham was held by the priory of St. Andrew's (Northampton) at the Dissolution.³⁰

The church of *ST. PETER* consists *CHURCH* of chancel, 28 ft. 4 in. by 14 ft. 4 in.; clerestoried nave of three bays, 39 ft. by 13 ft. 10 in.; north and south aisles, 12 ft. wide, north and south porches, and west tower, 10 ft. 6 in. square, all these measurements being internal. The aisles are the full length of the nave, and are continued eastward, covering the chancel about half its length. There is a sanctus bell-cote on the east gable of the nave over the chancel arch.

The church is built throughout of rubble with ashlar dressings, and, except in the north aisle, has plain parapets and low-pitched leaded roofs: the lead of the north aisle overhangs.

The two western arches of the nave arcades date

¹ Recov. R. Mich. 51 Geo. III, ro. 25.

² Ibid. Hil. 1 & 2 Geo. IV, ro. 12.

³ Feet of F. Northants. Hil. 1 & 2 Jas. II.

⁴ Ibid. East. 18 Geo. II.

⁵ Chron. Abb. Rames. (Rolls Ser.), 116.

⁶ Ibid. 181; Cott. MS. Vesp. 11. f. 5; Kemble, *Codex Dipl.* iii, 104-10; Thorpe, *Dipl. Æv. Sax.* 254; *Cart. Mon. de Rames.* (Rolls Ser.), ii, 56.

⁷ *Cart. Mon. de Rames.* (Rolls Ser.), ii, 73.

⁸ Ibid. 73, 93, 136; *Chron. Abb. Rames.* (Rolls Ser.), 201, 206; Add. Ch. 33651, 33654, 33658, 33686, 39264, 39265.

⁹ *V.C.H. Northants.* i, 349.

¹⁰ *Chron. Abb. Rames.* (Rolls Ser.), 206, nos. 178-9; *Cart. Mon. de Rames.* (Rolls Ser.), i, 223-4.

¹¹ *V.C.H. Northants.* i, 284.

¹² *Cart. Mon. de Rames.* (Rolls Ser.), iii, 49.

¹³ *V.C.H. Northants.* i, 282.

¹⁴ *Cart. Mon. de Rames.* (Rolls Ser.), iii, 211.

¹⁵ Feet of F. Northants. 24 Hen. III, file 29, no. 393.

¹⁶ Ibid. case 173, file 39, no. 638.

¹⁷ *Cart. Mon. de Rames.* (Rolls Ser.), iii, 55.

¹⁸ Ibid.

¹⁹ The name is frequently printed Carvell.

²⁰ *Cart. Mon. de Rames.* (Rolls Ser.), iii, 55.

²¹ *Feud. Aids.* iv, 1.

²² *Cal. Pat.* 1381-5, p. 109.

²³ *Chan. Inq.* p.m. 8 Edw. II, no. 68.

²⁴ *Cal. Close.* 1313-18, p. 134.

²⁵ *Chan. Inq.* p.m. 10 Ric. II, no. 38.

²⁶ Ibid. 4 Hen. IV, no. 4.

²⁷ *Hist. MSS. Com. Rep.* pt. vi, p. 106. Written Vyell but evidently Pyell.

²⁸ *Valor Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), iv, 254.

²⁹ *Pat. R.* 38 Hen. VIII, pt. 10; *L. and P. Hen. VIII*, xxi (2), g. 476 (66).

³⁰ *Valor Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), iv, 313; *L. and P. Hen. VIII*, xiii (1), 404.

from c. 1180 and probably represent the full extent of the nave of a small 12th-century church with narrow aisles and a square-ended chancel. In the first half of the 13th century the church was practically rebuilt, the nave being extended a bay eastward and a new chancel erected, while later in the same century the aisles were widened and carried eastward to their present extent. A west tower also appears to have been built, or intended, at this time, as the tower arch is of the same period as the chancel, but the existing tower is of 14th-century date, as are also the clerestory and north doorway. In 1870 the building was extensively restored, the south porch being rebuilt on the old foundation, a north porch added, the chancel re-roofed,¹ a west gallery taken down, and the tower arch opened out. Several of the aisle windows were renewed at this time: they are said not to reproduce those they replaced, but one in the north aisle and two in the south are of 14th-century date, and the east window of the south aisle is a 15th-century insertion.

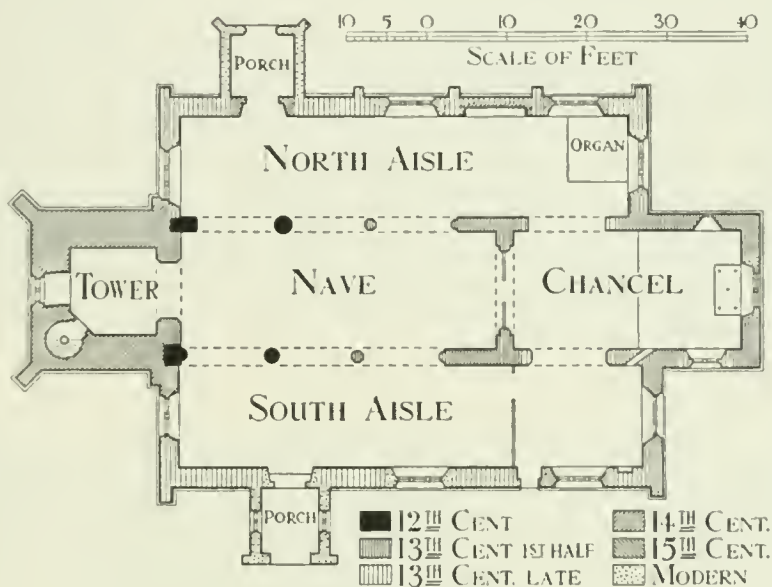
The chancel is without buttresses and has an east window of two lights with forked mullion: the window is comparatively modern, apparently replacing a group of three lancets, two or three of the upper jambstones of which are still in position. In the north wall is a 13th-century lancet, and in the south wall a tall two-light window with forked mullion, the lower part of which is cut off by a transom so as to form two small oblong openings, that to the west being used as a low-side window.²

This window is of late-13th-century date, its sill forms a seat, but no piscina remains. In the north wall is a rectangular recess with splayed jambs and head. The western part of the chancel is open on each side to the aisles by a pointed arch of a single chamfered order, and the 13th-century chancel arch is of two chamfered orders, the inner springing from half-octagonal responds with moulded capitals. The doorway to the rood-loft remains on the north side west of the chancel arch, its sill being only 7 ft. 4 in. above the nave floor, but it is blocked towards the aisle, and the steps have disappeared.

The nave arcades differ in detail, though the two 12th-century western arches on each side are semi-circular and the easternmost arch pointed. On the north the round arches are of a single square order and spring from a square respond with quirked and chamfered impost and a cylindrical pier with moulded base and scalloped capital, the square abacus of which corresponds with the impost moulding. The arcade on the south side is slightly later, the capitals of both respond and pier being carved and the arches of two square orders with hood-mould on each side. The respond is a half round with moulded base and early leaf-ornament

below the quirked abacus, and the capital of the circular pier has a head at each angle with foliage issuing from the mouth. The second pier from the west on each side belongs to the 13th-century extension and carries both a round and a pointed arch; the pointed arches are of two chamfered orders without hood-moulds and the piers are octagonal with moulded capitals and chamfered bases. The clerestory has two pointed windows on each side, and the nave roof is a modern one of four bays.

A scroll moulding runs the entire length of both aisles at sill level, and is continued round the buttresses, but above this the walls may have been rebuilt. In the north wall of the north aisle, between the first



PLAN OF ISHAM CHURCH

and second windows from the east, is a wide 14th-century ogee-headed recess with moulded arch and crocketed hood-mould with finial and side pinnacles. The hollow moulding of the label is ornamented with the ball-flower, and at the back of the recess, returned on either side, is a band of quatrefoils. The sill is 3 ft. 7 in. above the floor, but the recess contains no monument of any sort. The east end of the south aisle, formerly a chapel, is partitioned off by a modern screen to form a vestry: in the usual position in the south wall is a trefoil-headed piscina with fluted bowl and stone shelf, and at the east end of the north wall a squint to the chancel which is rebated top and bottom for a shutter. The 15th-century east window is four-centred and of three cinquefoiled lights:³ in the wall to the south of it is a plain image-bracket and to the north an inserted fragment of a grave-slab with incised cross. There is a late-13th-century doorway in the south wall with chamfered cinquefoiled arch and east of it a square-headed window of three trefoiled lights.

The 14th-century north doorway of the nave has a continuous moulded pointed arch, with label terminating in heads: the south doorway is modern.

The tower is of three stages with diagonal angle

¹ The registers record that the roof of the chancel was new built in 1633 by Richard Rainsford, rector. The chancel roof is considerably lower than that of

the nave.

² *Assoc. Arch. Soc. Reports*, xxix, 425. The height of the sill above the ground outside is 4 ft. 6 in. The western opening

is rebated inside for a shutter.

³ A similar window at the east end of the north aisle is modern.

A HISTORY OF NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

buttresses and battlemented parapet, below which is a band of lozenge quatrefoils. The walls slightly batter, and the bell-chamber windows are of two cinquefoiled lights with a quatrefoil in the head. There is a vice in the south-west angle, and a west window of two lights in the lower stage. The lofty tower arch is of two chamfered orders, the inner springing from half-octagonal responds with moulded capitals and chamfered bases.

The font is ancient and consists of a plain octagonal bowl and stem on a chamfered base.

The oak pulpit, c. 1600, has panelled sides and back and a modern canopy.¹ The upper panels are carved with winged heads and the back with a winged and crowned female figure holding orb and sceptre.²

The lower part of a 15th-century oak chancel screen remains in position, cut down to rail level. It has two traceried panels on each side of the opening and the rail is carved. Part of the stalling is made up of woodwork of the same type and period. The altar rails are Jacobean, with turned balusters.

In the chancel floor is a large slab on which was formerly the brass of Sir John Boyvyle (1493), but the figure and four shields of arms have disappeared.³ The inscription remains.⁴ There are no other monuments earlier than 1800.

There is a ring of six bells cast by Taylor & Co. of Loughborough in 1906 from an old ring of four, to which two trebles were added.⁵

The plate consists of a silver cup and cover paten c. 1680, a silver bread-holder of 1683, a pewter flagon, and a brass alms dish.⁶

The registers before 1812 are as follows: (i) baptisms and burials 1701–1805, marriages 1701–54; (ii) marriages 1754–1812; (iii) baptisms and burials 1806–12.⁷

The church was valued in 1291 in *ADVOUSON* two portions. These were held by two rectors as the Upper and the Lower Fee, each portion being worth £5, with pension deducted.⁸ The pension was that of the Abbot of St. Andrew's (Northampton), returned in *Valor Ecclesiasticus* as 13s. 4d. The combined rectories were valued in the *Valor* at £16 13s. 8d., the rectory of Upper Isham being returned as worth £7 10s.⁹ The rectors of the two portions were called comportioners. The rector of the Lower Fee was in 1634–5 before the High Commission Court for procuring himself to be superintended, and resigned his title to the rectory;¹⁰ and the parish registers show that in 1662 the rector of Lower Isham was removed for 'contending for the Upper Parsonage', when Mr. Galston was presented to both by the Bishop of Lincoln and the king.¹¹ But it was not until 1841 that the two portions were consolidated into one benefice by Order in Council, the Bishop of Lincoln being patron. Since the division of the bishopric, the patronage has been in the Bishop of Peterborough.

The advowsons of the rectories of the two portions of Isham church belonged originally apparently to the owners of the manors held respectively of the Latimers and of the Huntingdon fee, that of the Lower Fee having apparently been given¹² to the priory of Huntingdon, by whom the presentation was made in 1227¹³ and in 1230.¹⁴ Though the presentation to the Lower Fee was made in 1235 by St. James's Abbey,¹⁵ this must have been done by permission of the priory of Huntingdon, by whom the presentation was made in 1238.¹⁶ Before the close of the 13th century the advowson of this fee was in the hands of the Bishop of Lincoln, and so continued until the union of the two rectories. Though in 1546 William Holdenby included the advowson in the sale of the manor, he does not seem ever to have owned it.

The descent of the advowson of the Over Fee was the same as that of the manor of the Over Hall (q.v.) until 1726, when Francis Hawes and his wife Susan conveyed it with the manor of Kettering to Sir Thomas Crosse, bart., and Matthew Lant.¹⁷ In 1745 William Franks, clerk, and Anne his wife with Thomas Whitworth and Elizabeth his wife conveyed it to Sir John Dolben, bart., and Langham Rokeby by fine, with warranty against the heirs of Anne and Elizabeth,¹⁸ and the presentation was made in 1744 and 1749 by Samuel Morton, a minor; in 1752 and 1760 by Anne Franks, widow; and in 1774 by Thomas Rokeby.¹⁹ In 1804 the advowson was held by William John Lushington and his wife Barbara, who conveyed it by fine to Benjamin Clarke Raworth.²⁰ By Order in Council, 21 August 1841, the rectories of Isham Superior and Inferior were united. The patronage of Isham Superior was then in the hands of Sir George Stamp Robinson, from whom the Bishop of Lincoln obtained it in exchange for Cranford St. John, of which church Sir George was rector. The united rectories were transferred to the Bishop of Peterborough in 1852.²¹

Church land, Constable's land, and *CHARITIES* Apprentice land. On the inclosure of the parish in 1774 three allotments in Broadmoor Field were awarded in lieu of lands and rights in the open fields. The property consists of about 30 acres let for £45 yearly, and the invested accumulations of income of the Apprentice lands produce about £5 yearly. About £24 is applied to church expenses, £10 10s. as apprenticeship premium, and £3, from the Constable's land, to public uses. The charity is administered by the vicar and four other trustees.

Ann Green by her will dated 28 August 1829 gave 19 guineas, now producing 10s. yearly, to the minister and churchwardens upon trust to apply the income for the benefit of the Sunday school; and also £40, now producing £1 yearly, to be distributed in bread.

By his will dated 30 March 1829 William Green

¹ The pulpit was restored and the canopy added in 1870. A panel originally belonging to the door now serves as a hymn-board.

² There is a similar figure in Holcot church.

³ They are recorded as 'torn away', by Bridges (ii, 110). The figure was 30 in. high. The slab measures 8 ft. 3 in. by 3 ft.

⁴ It reads 'Hic jacet Johes Boyvyle armiger expectans miſm dei qui obiit xxx^o die mens' Maii anno domini Millmō cccclxxxiii cujus anime propicietur Deus Amen'.

⁵ For the old bells, see North, *Ch. Bells of Northants.* 313. The treble, second, and tenor were by Hugh Watts of Leicester, dated respectively 1626, 1619, and 1615. The third was undated, but bore the stamps both of Newcombe and Watts: it was inscribed 'Ambrose +', and was probably a medieval bell recast.

⁶ Markham, *Ch. Plate of Northants.* 166.

⁷ The burials begin in 1807, there having been none in 1806.

⁸ *Tax. Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), 39, 42.

⁹ *Op. cit.* (Rec. Com.), iv, 305.

¹⁰ *Cal. S.P. Dom.* 1634–5, pp. 271, 319, 536.

¹¹ Quoted *N. & Q. Northants.* 1886–7, p. 12.

¹² No trace of the gift or of any confirmation of it can be found. Possibly it was held on a lease, or for a term of years.

¹³ *Rot. Hug. de Welles* (Cant. & York Soc.), ii, 156.

¹⁴ *Ibid.* 172.

¹⁵ *Rot. Rob. Grosseteste* (Cant. & York Soc.), 213.

¹⁶ *Ibid.* 233.

¹⁷ Feet of F. Northants. East. 12 Geo. I.

¹⁸ *Ibid.* Trin. 18 & 19 Geo. II.

¹⁹ *Inst. Bks.* (P.R.O.).

²⁰ Feet of F. Northants. Hil. 44 Geo. III.

²¹ *Ex inf.* Mr. H. Savory.



ISHAM CHURCH: INTERIOR, LOOKING EAST



LAMPORT HALL



LAMPORT CHURCH, FROM THE SOUTH-WEST

gave £300 Consols upon trust to apply the income in the distribution of meat to the poor on 24 December. The income of this and the preceding charity is distributed in food by the minister and two trustees appointed by the Parish Council.

By her will proved 2 March 1900 Miss Ann Caro-

line Ayres gave £40 to the rector, churchwardens, and overseers upon trust to apply the income in the distribution of coals to the poor. The legacy was invested in £41 Consols, producing £1 *or.* 4*d.* yearly in dividends. The several sums of stock are with the Official Trustees of Charitable Funds.

LAMPORNT (WITH HANGING HOUGHTON)

Langeport (xi cent.); Hanga de Houghton, Hoghton by Langeporte, Hengende Hocdon (xiii cent.).

Lampornt now contains the chapelry of Faxton, till 1935 a separate parish, as well as the hamlet of Hanging Houghton, which, though separately rated, forms its southern half. It lies to the west of the high road from Northampton to Market Harborough. This for a considerable distance runs parallel with and near to its eastern boundary; and the Northampton and Market Harborough section of the L.M.S. railway runs through the centre of the parish, with a station about half a mile north-west of the village.

Lampornt village, Hall, and Park are near the eastern boundary of the parish, on a hill above the station, commanding good views over a wooded and hilly country. Lampornt Hall, a handsome stone mansion in grounds of about 20 acres, is the property of Gyles Isham, esq., since 1931 by deed of gift from his father, Captain Sir Vere Isham, bart., J.P., principal land-owner. It had a famous library, rich in rare books,¹ as well as 'books of evidences', diaries, documents, and deeds giving the history of its Isham owners. Most of the books were sold in 1895 and divided between the British Museum and the Britwell Court Library. The Britwell Court books, including the unique 1599 edition of Shakespeare's *Venus and Adonis*, are now in the Huntington Library, California. The family records have been deposited on loan with the Record Society at Northampton. Sir John, the first baronet, set down 'Remembrances' of his grandfather John, who leaving the neighbourhood at 16, made his fortune in London as a mercer and merchant adventurer, and came back to buy the manor and parsonage in 1559, as also of his father, the blind squire Thomas.² From these we learn of the manor-house built by John Isham the grandfather in 1568, and of the buttery with the chamber over it, and the 'foresyde of the hall' built by himself in 1610 and 1611: and that John Isham inclosed the Pond Close and Caulcot Closes in 1570; Hoback, Dinges, Blewbarrows, Redgwas, and Parkes in 1576. Sir Justinian Isham in 1654 had the central part of the west front new built by John Webb,³ the pupil of Inigo Jones. This comprises the lofty 'Music Room', which contains the original fireplace designed by Webb. The elaborate plaster work on ceiling and frieze, however, dates from 1738 when the room was altered to its present form by the sixth baronet. The staircase was altered in 1830, but the upper part is of Webb's time. In 1732 Francis Smith, of Warwick, the architect of the Georgian block at Stoneleigh Abbey, began to add a wing on each side of Webb's work, reducing the west façade to uniformity, but the north front retained the Elizabethan hall and kitchens until 1821, when they were rebuilt. This por-

tion was remodelled in 1862, and although a few early windows lighting a cellar have survived, the interest of the house lies in Webb's work and the Georgian library. There are also some stained glass coats of arms of the 16th century, brought from the destroyed manor-house of Sir Euseby Isham at Pytchley. In the beautiful grounds is a fine avenue of yews called 'the Eagle walk' from its having once led to a cage of captive eagles. The gardens were laid out in their present form in 1677 and there are fine wrought-iron gates made by a local blacksmith in 1700.

The rectory, east of the church, is a well-designed two-story building, with plain parapets and slated hipped roof. The stone of which it was built in 1730, and its fine staircase and wainscoting, came from the dismantled manor-house of Hanging Houghton.⁴ The rectory and church are at the western end of the park, the Home Farm at its north-eastern. There are good springs and quarries of stone.

A road branching west from the Northampton road forms the boundary between the hamlet of Hanging Houghton and the rest of the parish: Lampornt village is about a quarter of a mile to the north of this road, and the scattered houses of Hanging Houghton on a hill only a short distance south of it. A chapel of some importance once existed at Hanging Houghton, but Bridges says that its ruins were used for the building of a manor-house, which in turn was left deserted in 1665 after the Montagu household had been carried off by the plague, which they had fled from London to escape. In 1670 it was sold by the Montagus to the Ishams. Lampornt Grange, the residence of Sir Charles Frederick, bart., O.B.E., lies near the boundary of Hanging Houghton. There is a school, founded by the Ishams. The Manor Farm is at the western end of the village, Hanging Houghton Lodge in the south of the hamlet.

In the north of the parish is Bullock Close Spinney: south of Lampornt Park the Long Plantation with Boundary Oak to the west of it. Lampornt is a parish of hill and dale, but a height of about 400 ft. is frequent. The area is 4,605 acres, mainly pasture: the soil red loam and subsoil clay. Population in 1931 was 263.

Among the lands of Walter the Fleming, *MANORS* otherwise called Walter de Wahull or Odell (Beds.), there were entered in Domesday Survey 4 hides and 1 virgate in *LAMPORNT* held by Fulcher, a member of the Malsor, or Malesoures, family.⁵ This estate continued to be held of the barony of Wahull until the 16th century. In the 12th-century Northamptonshire Survey 4 hides in Lampornt were held by Simon Malsover of the fee of Wahull.⁶ Peter Malsover of Lampornt levied a fine of land in

¹ An account of the discovery of rare early editions of Elizabethan writers at Lampornt in 1867 is given in *N. & Q. Northants.* v, 26.

² Extracts from these are given in the

Genealogist (1st Ser.), vols ii, iii.

³ For a full description of the house, with reproductions of Webb's own drawings for the work, see an article by J. A. Gotchin *Journal of R.I.B.A.* 24 Sept. 1921.

⁴ *Assoc. Arch. Soc. Rep.* xxix, 91.

⁵ *V.C.H. Northants.* i, 340.

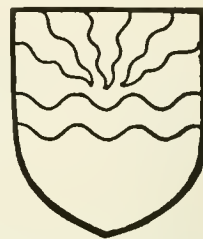
⁶ *Ibid.* i, 380. For the descent of the barony of Wahull, see *V.C.H. Beds.* iii, 70-1.

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Lampport with John son of Thomas in 1196-7,¹ and the presentation to the church was made by Sir Peter Malsover in 1217.² He had been succeeded before 1242 by Guy Wake, who with his wife Isabel held a fee here in that year,³ and in 1250 presented Richard Trussell to the living.⁴ The advowson was held with the manor, which was in the hands of the Trussells in 1260-1, when a fine was levied of it between Richard and Isabel Trussell.⁵ Dugdale considers that the Trussells of Cublesdon in Staffordshire were the principal male branch of the Trussell family, and the Trussells who held Lampport seem to have belonged to that branch, and to have had under them a younger branch of the family as under-tenants. Richard Trussell, who claimed view of frankpledge, &c., in Lampport in 1276,⁶ was in 1284 holding a knight's fee in Lampport of William Trussell, who held of John de Wahull.⁷ William Trussell, who in 1316 was holding Lampport with Hanging Houghton,⁸ had been succeeded in 1329 by John Trussell, of whose demise Thomas Trussell was then holding the manor for life.⁹ In 1339 John Trussell 'of Cublesdon' levied a fine of the manor and advowson,¹⁰ and in 1346 he held a fee in Lampport and a quarter fee in Scaldwell.¹¹ According to Dugdale, Margaret daughter and heir of William Trussell of Cublesdon married Fulk de Pembruge.¹² Fulk and Margaret were dealing in 1383 with the manors of Marston Trussell, Lampport, Thorp Malsor, and Orlingbury.¹³ Sir Fulk Pembruge died in 1408-9, seised of the manor and advowson, which he was holding for life jointly with his wife Isabel, with remainder to Sir William son of Lawrence Trussell and Margery his wife.¹⁴ The heirs of John Trussell paid 6s. 8d. subsidy in 1428 for the fee in Lampport formerly belonging to John Trussell,¹⁵ but Fulk's widow Isabel held these manors until her death on 9 October 1445.¹⁶ Her own heir was her son William Ludlow, but the manor reverted to the Trussells, and on 5 May 1475 William Trussell granted it to Humphrey Belcher and others for performance of his last will, and died seised on 23 January 1481.¹⁷ His son and heir Edward died while still a minor on 10 July 1499.¹⁸ His infant son and heir John¹⁹ died two years after his father, according to Bridges, when his sister Elizabeth evidently became his heir. Humphrey Belcher was returned in 1500 as sole surviving feoffee under a settlement of the manor and advowson to the use of Elizabeth; and their value was given as £18 13s. 4d.²⁰

The marriage of the heiress Elizabeth to John de Vere, Earl of Oxford, to whom and his brother, then earl, her wardship and marriage had been granted in

1507, carried the manor and advowson to the Earls of Oxford, by whom they continued to be held with Marston Trussell, Thorp Malsor (q.v.), &c., for the next fifty years, when they passed from them to the Ishams. In 1556 the manor was recovered against John, Earl of Oxford, and his wife Lady Margaret by John Isham,²¹ ultimately the purchaser. According to the Isham family records, of which an abstract is given in the *Genealogist*,²² Sir William Cecil of Burghley purchased the manor and advowson of John, Earl of Oxford, for £530 on 7 May 1559, and sold them to John Isham for £610 on 13 January 1560.²³ It is recorded on his



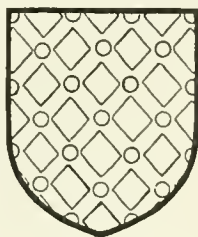
ISHAM. *Gules a fesse wavy argent with three piles wavy argent pointing to the fesse point.*

tombstone in Lampport church, which bears with the Isham arms the arms of London, of the Merchant Adventurers of Flanders, and of the Mercers' Company, that 'John Isham, one of the 20 children of Euseby Isham of Picheley and of Anne his wief, daughter of Giles Pulton of Desborow Esquier, married Elizabeth daughter of Nicholas Barker citizen of London, was once Governor of the English Marchaunt Adventurers in Flaunders, and thrice Warden of the Mercers of London, purchased the mannor and parsonage of this parish of Lampport, and was 22 yeares Justice of the Peace²⁴ and once sheriff of this shyre of Northampton²⁵ and died the 17 day of March 1595'. This concise record of a full life can be supplemented from notes left by his son Thomas which have fortunately survived.

John, kept by his father at school until he was 16, was sent to London and bound apprentice in 1541-2.

At length he havinge gotten some good store of substance with good credit and honest report he came and dwelt in the year of our Lord God 1572 upon his land in Langport which before he had purchased. Heer he aplyed himselfe to plantinge, buildinge, making of pooles, including of groundes and all other workes of good husbandry as though he had been brought up to them from his infancy. Butt his company of ye Mercers perceiving him to forsake them in this order, In the year of our Lord God 1577 being greatly effected unto him, called him out of the cuntry and made him their Master Warden. Yit he havinge settled himself heer in the cuntry woulde nott by any meanes be drawne agayn to dwelle at London. Wherefore his office being past, heer he continued till his dyinge daye havinge as great good frendship of gentlemen in this his cuntry, as he had before of Cytesens among whom he was bredd. . . . He was a wise man though altogether unlearned, writinge and readinge Inglish only excepted. . . . In house-keeping he was bountefull. . . . Unto Thomas Isham, his eldest son, being blind, he left such directions both by speach and writynge as to him were instead of an eye.²⁶

This son Thomas who had been born in London and



TRUSSELL. *Argent fretty gules bezanty.*

¹ Feet of F. Northants. 8 Ric. I, no. 11.

² *Rot. Hug. de Welles* (Cant. & York Soc.), i, 98; Bridges, *Hist. of Northants.* ii, 112.

³ *Bk. of Fees*, 940.

⁴ *Rot. Rob. Grosseteste* (Cant. & York Soc.), 241; Bridges, *Hist. of Northants.* ii, 112.

⁵ Feet of F. Northants. 45 Hen. III, no. 741. Possibly the Richard Trussell who, according to Dugdale, lost his life at Evesham; *Baronage*, ii, 143.

⁶ *Hund. R.* (Rec. Com.), ii, 12.

⁷ *Feud. Aids*, iv, 2.

⁸ *Ibid.* iv, 21.

⁹ *Plac. de Quo Warr.* (Rec. Com.), 517.

¹⁰ Feet of F. Northants. 13 Edw. III. no. 191.

¹¹ *Feud. Aids*, iv, 446.

¹² *Baronage*, ii, 143-4. See also G.E.C. *Peerage*, Trussell.

¹³ Feet of F. Northants. 7 Ric. II, no. 57.

¹⁴ Chan. Inq. p.m. 10 Hen. IV, no. 45.

¹⁵ *Feud. Aids*, iv, 33.

¹⁶ Chan. Inq. p.m. 25 Hen. VI, no. 9.

¹⁷ *Ibid.* 20 Edw. IV, no. 83.

¹⁸ *Cal. Inq. p.m. Hen. VII*, i, 414; ii, 326.

¹⁹ Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), xx, 53.

²⁰ *Cal. Inq. p.m. Hen. VII*, ii, 407. Cf. *ibid.* ii, 446; *Cal. Pat.* 1494-1509, p. 446.

²¹ *Recov. R. Hil. Phil. and Mary*, ro. 154.

²² *Op. cit.* (1st Ser.), 1878, ii, 241, &c.; 1879, iii, 274, &c.

²³ *Ibid.* ii, 249. A paper endorsed 'Remembrances of Sir John Isham, first baronet, entered May 30, 1627'.

²⁴ From 1576.

²⁵ In 1581.

²⁶ *Genealogist*, iii, 274, &c.

baptized at Bow, and succeeded his father at the age of 30,¹ had been blind since a great sickness he had at 14. He died at the age of 50 in 1605, his death hastened by a fall from an unruly horse. He married Elizabeth Nicholson in 1576, and it is to him that the credit of founding the Lampport library belongs.

The inquisition taken after the death of Thomas records the purchase of the manor by John Isham and states that it never belonged to the monastery of Bury St. Edmunds nor had it ever been granted by Henry VIII in 1541 to Sir Edward Montagu²—a suggestion of disputed claims, to which a reference in his father's will to losses by 'a great suit at law' supplies the clue. John Isham succeeded his father at the age of 23, and in 1607 married Judith youngest daughter and ultimately co-heir of William Lewin, D.C.L. and LL.D., of Otterdingen, Kent, Judge of the Prerogative Court, and sister to Sir Justinian Lewin.³ He was knighted in 1608, high sheriff 1611–12, and made baronet on 30 May 1627. Though a Royalist, Sir John was allowed to remain undisturbed at Lampport until he died in 1651. His accounts show he paid a total of £1,202 to the Parliament, and contain an application under the royal sign manual from the king for a loan of £500 in 1642.⁴

His son Justinian, who was dealing with the manor in 1653,⁵ the year in which he married his second wife Vere daughter of Sir Thomas Leigh, first Lord Leigh of Stoneleigh, was a person of culture and learning. It was he who employed Webb to re-build the west front of the Hall, and the masons worked under his instruction. He also built the chancel of the church at Lampport, and the Isham chapel (q.v.). He was a friend and correspondent of Seth Ward, later Bishop of Salisbury, and was one of the earliest Fellows of the Royal Society in 1663. As a widower with four daughters he courted the youthful Dorothy Osborne, who amusingly describes in her letters to Temple, her future husband, the elaborate suit of the baronet whom she christened 'the Emperor'. He suffered imprisonment many times as well as fines for his Cavalier principles, but was rewarded at the Restoration by his election to the Parliament of 1661. He died at Oxford where he had gone to place his two sons at Christ Church on March 2, 1675, and was buried at Lampport.

The detailed pedigree of the family of Isham with biographical accounts of its members to the present day is to be found in the Genealogical volume for this county,⁶ and their succession can be summarized briefly. Sir Thomas, who succeeded his father while still a minor in 1675, and has left a Latin diary written by his father's commands, died, aged 23, in London on the point of marriage in 1681. His brother and heir Justinian, who succeeded him, was M.P. for Northampton and for the county in many parliaments, and one of the guard formed at Nottingham for Princess Anne of Denmark to enable her to desert her father James II.⁷ He died in 1730, and was succeeded by his son Sir Justinian Isham, M.P. for the

county from 1730 to 1737, a good antiquary and lover of literature, who at his sudden death s.p. in 1737 was succeeded by his brother Sir Edmund Isham, bart., M.P. for the county from 1737 until he died in 1772. Sir Justinian, who then succeeded to the manor, was the son of his brother the Rev. Euseby Isham, D.D., the third son of the fourth baronet. When in 1794 an Inclosure Act was passed for the open and common fields in Lampport and Hanging Houghton, these were estimated at about 539 acres, and all except the church lands were his property.⁸ His son Sir Justinian, who succeeded him at his death in 1818, died at Lampport Hall in 1845, and was succeeded by his son Sir Justinian Vere Isham, at whose sudden death in 1846 Sir Charles Edmund Isham his brother succeeded him. Captain Sir Vere Isham, son of John Vere Isham, son of Vere Isham (d. 1845), Rector of Lampport, son of Sir Justinian Isham (7th bart.) (d. 1818), succeeded Sir Charles Edmund Isham at his death in 1903, and is the present lord of the manor.

The Domesday Survey records 1 virgate 1 bovat in Lampport among the lands of the Abbey of St. Edmund's.⁹ This had become half a hide in Lampport in the Hundred of Mawsley of the socage of St. Edmund in the 12th century,¹⁰ and by 1284 must have been looked upon as part of the Trussell's manor of Lampport, being returned at that date in the Hundred of Orlingbury as 3 virgates of land in Lampport which the Abbot of St. Edmund's held of William Trussell, William of John de Wahull, and the latter of the king.¹¹ Lands in Lampport were specified in the grants of 1541–2 to Sir Edward Montagu, Chief Justice of the King's Bench, of all lands belonging to the abbey of St. Edmund,¹² and this inclusion may have led to the specific statement at the death of Thomas Isham that his manor had never been part of the abbey property.¹³

Property was also held in Lampport in 1086 by the Countess Judith, who had 1 bovat of land with 1 bordar rendering 16d.¹⁴ The Hastings purparty of the honor of Huntingdon included in 1235 half a fee in Scaldwell, [Hanging] Houghton, and Uphorp held of them in 1235 by Simon 'Major'¹⁵ and in 1242 by Simon son of Simon.¹⁶ This was modified by subsequent redistributions into a quarter fee in Lampport, Houghton, Scaldwell (q.v.), and Uphorp held by John Hastings senior in 1313,¹⁷ and into a third of a fee held in the same places in 1325¹⁸ and in 1376 by the Hastings,¹⁹ and under them by Thomas de Verdun and his heirs.

Four owners of lands appear in the Houghton later known as Hanging Houghton in the Domesday Survey.²⁰ The Conqueror's half-brother Robert, Count of Mortain, received an estate of 2 hides less 1 virgate; the Conqueror's niece the Countess Judith 1 hide and 1 virgate; the abbey of St. Edmund 1 hide and ½ virgate; and Walter the Fleming 2 virgates and 1 bovat of land: a total of nearly 4½ hides, three of whose owners were also holding lands in Lampport, with the result that in later centuries the delimitation of lordship was sometimes

¹ Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), cccxvi, 113.

² Ibid. cccxiv, 85.

³ She was buried at Lampport in 1625, the year of the great plague.

⁴ Hist. MSS. Com. Rep. iii, 'MSS. of Sir Chas. Isham, Bart. of Lampport Hall', p. 254.

⁵ Feet of F. Div. Co. Trin. 1653.

⁶ Northamptonshire Families (V.C.H.),

141–67.

⁷ Extracts from Sir Justinian's diaries are printed in Roy. Hist. Soc. Trans. (3rd Ser.), i, 181–203.

⁸ Priv. Stat. 34 Geo. III, cap. 75.

⁹ V.C.H. Northants. i, 318a.

¹⁰ Ibid. i, 380.

¹¹ Feud. Aids, iv, 2.

¹² L. and P. Hen. VIII, xvi, g. 678

(56); xvii, g. 220 (63).

¹³ See above, n. 2.

¹⁴ V.C.H. Northants. i, 350.

¹⁵ Bk. of Fees, 497.

¹⁶ Ibid. 938.

¹⁷ Cal. Inq. p.m. v, 412.

¹⁸ Ibid. vi, 612.

¹⁹ Cal. Close, 1374–7, p. 189.

²⁰ See V.C.H. Northants. i, 318, 324, 340, 353.

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involved in confusion; the claims of the abbey of St. Edmund seems to have been a disputed question from first to last in both places.

The land of the Count of Mortain had been held in King Edward's time freely by Fredgis; under the count it was held by Ralf. The Abbot of St. Edmund's claimed the soc of 2½ virgates of land.¹ The property of the Count of Mortain passed to his successors, Earls of Cornwall,² and in the 12th-



CORNWALL. *Argent a lion gules crowned or in a border sable bezanty.*

century Survey his Domesday holding in Houghton appears as 1 hide 3 virgates there, held by 'Rocinus' in Mawsley Hundred of their fee of Berkhamsted.³ A reference in 1226 to the demesne of Philip 'Bosce' in Houghton⁴ may be a scribal error for 'Rosce'. In 1235 one fee was held here by Hugh 'Russell', apparently of Ralph Cheynduit;⁵ in 1242 one small fee was held by Roger 'Roce';⁶ a little later Robert 'Roce' gave to the Hospital of Holy Trinity by Northampton lands in Houghton, including Galtrefurlong;⁷ and in 1284 Stephen Cheynduit was holding 14 virgates of the Earl of Cornwall,⁸ then held of him by Hugh de Dunster. At the death of Edmund, Earl of Cornwall, s.p. in 1300, fixed fines at the views of frankpledge in Houghton by Lamport, Thorp, and elsewhere, were held of the barony of Cheynduit of the honor of Berkhamsted, which then came to the king as his cousin and heir;⁹ and in 1491 lands and rent in Hanging Houghton, evidently part of this property, were returned as held of Prince Arthur, the eldest son of Henry VII.¹⁰

In 1252 Hugh de Dunster and Alice his wife levied two fines of rents in 'Hengende Hocton', one with Thomas de Addingburne,¹¹ the other with the same Thomas and John de Freyne (Fraxineto) and Alice his wife;¹² and in 1284 Adam de Grendon was holding 14 virgates in Houghton of Hugh de Dunster, who held them of Stephen de Cheynduit. In 1302¹³ this property was held by Peter de Grendon, who owed 2 marks rent yearly for the tenements he held of Thomas de Addingburne, John de Freyne, and Alice his wife, under the fine of 1252, to Richard son and heir of Henry de Dunster.¹⁴ Lettice, the wife of John son of Peter de Grendon, was with her husband John enfeoffed by Henry son of Peter of the manor of Hanging Houghton, and, as the widow of John, recovered seisin against Walter Parles in 1347-8.¹⁵

Humphrey Belcher, previously mentioned as sole surviving feoffee under the settlement made of Lamport

by Sir William Trussell in 1475, was returned as holding, at his own death in 1501, 4 messuages 5 virgates of land and 6s. rent in Hanging Houghton held of the most excellent prince [Arthur, eldest son of King Henry VII].¹⁶ His son Roger succeeded to this estate, which appears, according to Bridges, quoting Montagu evidences, to have been bought by Sir Edward Montagu,¹⁷ as were also certain lands and rents in Hanging Houghton, formerly held by Sir Thomas Tresham. They had been forfeited by him under the Act of Attainder of 1462, and granted to John Donne,¹⁸ who in 1489 had the custody of the lord of Lamport Manor during his minority,¹⁹ and who with his wife Elizabeth received a fresh grant of the Tresham lands on 11 March 1465.²⁰ Isabel the wife of Sir William Pecche was holding these lands in dower, as widow of Sir Thomas.²¹

The Countess Judith's hide and virgate in Houghton in Mawsley Hundred was held under her by Hugh.²² In the Northamptonshire Survey it was entered, unchanged in extent, as held of the fee of King David,²³ and appeared in 1235 and 1242 as half a fee in Scaldwell, Houghton, and Upthorp held by the Hastings of the honor of Huntingdon.²⁴ It must ultimately have been merged in the other holdings.

The hide and half virgate which the abbey of St. Edmund's held in Houghton in 1086²⁵ remained in the fee of St. Edmund at the date of the Northamptonshire Survey.²⁶ In 1284 Richard Trussell was holding 9 virgates in Houghton of the Abbot of St. Edmund's.²⁷ The abbot was at the same date holding 3 virgates in Lamport of William Trussell, under whom Richard Trussell was holding his fee in Lamport, and in 1316 William Trussell was returned as holding Houghton *cum* Lamport.²⁸

Richard Mountygowie of Hanging Houghton, husbandman, *alias* Richard Ladde *alias* Richard Montagu, yeoman, who appeared in 1471 in a plea of debt,²⁹ may have been identical with Richard Montagu, the father of Thomas, and grandfather of Sir Edward Montagu, Lord Chief Justice, who is said to have bought Hemington, and lived there.³⁰ Probably he removed thence from Hanging Houghton, where, according to Bridges,³¹ quoting Montagu evidences, he made a settlement of lands on Edward Montagu and his wife Cecily, daughter of William Lane of Orlingbury, in 1512-13. Bridges' further statement that both father and son were buying lands in Hanging Houghton in the reigns of Henry VII and Henry VIII is borne out by the extent of the lands there with which Sir Edward was dealing before the grant to him of the lands of St. Edmund's in 1541-2.³² Although Sir Edward was dealing in October 1540 with 'manors' and lands in

¹ *V.C.H. Northants.* i, 324.

² *G.E.C. Peerage*, Cornwall.

³ *V.C.H. Northants.* i, 380.

⁴ *Rot. Hug. de Welles* (Cant. & York Soc.), ii, 137.

⁵ *Bk. of Fees*, 497, 501.

⁶ *Ibid.* 941.

⁷ *Anct. D.*, C. 2850.

⁸ *Feud. Aids*, iv, 2.

⁹ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* iii, 604.

¹⁰ *Cal. Inq. p.m. Hen. VII*, ii, 446.

¹¹ Feet of F. Northants. case 173, file 38, no. 601.

¹² *Ibid.* no. 602.

¹³ *Feud. Aids*, iv, 2.

¹⁴ *Abbrev. Plac.* (Rec. Com.), 246.

¹⁵ De Banco R. Hil. 21 Edw. III, m. 299.

¹⁶ *Cal. Inq. p.m. Hen. VII*, ii, 446.

¹⁷ *Hist. of Northants*, ii, 117. Lands in Lamport held under a lease from the Earl of Oxford by the Belcher family were after the death of Robert Belcher, who died circa 1546 (*Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), lxxv, pt. ii, no. 11), the subject of Chancery proceedings instituted on behalf of Robert's son and heir Edward, then aged 16, against his uncle William Belcher, in whose custody the said lands then were in succession to Alexander, brother of Robert and William, Alexander having lately died. Robert's widow had married Stephen Agard, and the custody of the lands during the minority of the heir had been bequeathed to Alexander: *Chan. Proc.* (Ser. 2), ix, 18; xix, 59.

¹⁸ *Cal. Pat.* 1461-7, p. 111.

¹⁹ Bridges, *Hist. of Northants*, ii, 112.

²⁰ *Cal. Pat.* 1461-7, p. 431.

²¹ *Fine R.* 5 Edw. IV.

²² *V.C.H. Northants.* i, 353.

²³ *Ibid.* 380.

²⁴ *Bk. of Fees*, 495, 938.

²⁵ *V.C.H. Northants.* i, 318.

²⁶ *Ibid.* 380.

²⁷ *Feud. Aids*, iv, 2.

²⁸ *Ibid.* 21. Lamport held of the Wahull fee, and this property held of St. Edmund's, a possible cause of later complications as to respective rights.

²⁹ *Cal. Pat.* 1467-77, p. 256.

³⁰ Bridges, *Hist. of Northants.* ii, 400.

³¹ *Ibid.* 117.

³² *L. and P. Hen. VIII*, xvi, g. 678 (56); xvii, g. 63 (220).

Lampport and Hanging Houghton,¹ in 1555 premises which Anthony Catesby had held in Hanging Houghton were returned as held of Sir Edward Montagu as of his manor of Warkton, without reference to any manor of Hanging Houghton;² and as late as 1648 lands in Houghton were still held of Warkton.³ At his death in 1556-7 Sir Edward left his manors, tenements, &c., in Lampport, Hanging Houghton, &c., to his eldest son Edward,⁴ who settled them in tail male on his second son Walter, with remainder to his eldest son Edward and other sons Henry, Charles, James, and Sidney.⁵ In 1599 Sir Walter Montagu was dealing by recovery with the manor of Hanging Houghton, including a mill.⁶ By his will dated 2 December 1614 he devised 160 acres in Mawsley and Hanging Houghton for the maintenance of a hospital for the poor founded by him at Chepstow in Monmouthshire.⁷ Sir Henry Montagu, his brother, was in 1626 created Earl of Manchester, and was succeeded in the earldom in 1642 by his son Edward, whose son Robert, Viscount Mandeville, was dealing in 1655 with the manor of Hanging Houghton, with its windmill and other appurtenances.⁸ In 1670 he and his father Edward, Earl of Manchester, conveyed the manor of Hanging Houghton to Sir Justinian Isham, bart., and from that time it has been held with Lampport.⁹

The 2 virgates 1 bovate of land in Houghton which Walter the Fleming held in 1086¹⁰ were not recorded again and were probably absorbed in his manor of Lampport.

The priory of Daventry, the recipient of benefactions from Ralph Cheynduit, was in 1276 returned as holding half a virgate of land worth half a mark in Hanging Houghton.¹¹

In 1563-4 a hermitage, croft, dovecote, and orchard called the Chapel yard in the town of Northampton; and the chapel and all lands, meadows, pastures, &c., to the said chapel belonging in Hanging Houghton were granted to William Grice and Anthony Foster.¹² This probably came next into the hands of Sir Edward Montagu, to whom, according to Bridges, concealed lands belonging to the keepers of the chapel of Hanging Houghton were granted in 1566-7.¹³

Lands in Lampport were included in the possessions of the priory of Studley in the county of Oxford granted in February 1540 to John Cooke.¹⁴

Lands called Pennyfathers and Skeretts, and the moiety of 'a manor' in Lampport, were the subject of proceedings in the Court of Requests by the brothers Robert and John Ingoldsby or Yngolsby in regard to a settlement by their father Thomas on his wife Agnes.¹⁵

The church of *ALL SAINTS* consists of chancel, 28 ft. 6 in. by 17 ft. 3 in., with north chapel and south vestry; nave of three bays, 32 ft. 9 in. by 17 ft. 6 in.; north and south aisles each 9 ft. 3 in. wide; and embattled west tower of three stages, 12 ft. 6 in. by 11 ft. 4 in.; all these measurements being internal. The width across nave and aisles is 41 ft. 3 in.

Two small round-headed windows in the tower, widely splayed inside, suggest that in its two lower stages this is of 12th-century date, but in the main the fabric belongs to the 13th century, the tower arch, nave arcades, and upper part of the tower being of that period, together probably with some portion of the walling in other parts. The chancel was built in 1652 by Sir Justinian Isham, the second baronet, who in 1672 added the chapel north of the chancel as a place of burial for the Isham family. Of his building Sir Justinian wrote to a friend: 'My building I intend to have substantial and grave without Pictures or guildings either in windows or walls'.¹⁶ In the 18th century, however, the building was made to assume its present Italian appearance, following a legacy left by Sir Justinian Isham (5th baronet) in 1737, after his visit to Italy, for its 'rebuilding, beautifying and adorning'. His intentions were carried out by his wife (who died in 1744) and others, with the result that little of the mediæval building is visible but the tower and the nave arcades. A shallow south porch was added about the same time, in the pseudo-Classic style of the day, with drafted quoins, and externally the whole of the building with the exception of the tower was reconstructed in the same style. The vestry was added in 1879 in the style of the 14th century, from the designs of Mr. G. F. Bodley.

The chancel has a three-light east window of 'Venetian' type, ornamental flat plaster ceiling, and low-pitched roof covered with copper. It is open on the north to the Isham chapel by three round arches, and on the south is a round-headed window.¹⁷ The wide pointed chancel arch is of two chamfered orders.

The arches of the nave arcades are of two chamfered orders, on octagonal pillars with moulded capitals. At the east end the arches rest on keel-shaped responds and at the west on moulded corbels. The flat ornamental plaster ceiling of the nave and all the round-headed aisle windows are of the 18th century. At the west end of the north aisle are the remains of an older window, now blocked. The roofs of the nave and aisle are leaded.

The tower has diagonal buttresses of later date than the walls¹⁸ and a pyramidal leaded roof. One of the 12th-century windows is in the lower stage on the west and the other in the middle stage on the south side. An 18th-century west doorway is now blocked. The bell-chamber windows are of two plain pointed lights under a single hood-mould. There is no voice. The tower arch is of three chamfered orders, the two inner resting on keel-shaped responds with moulded capitals and bases.

The font is modern and has a spire cover of oak designed by Mr. Bodley. There is an 18th-century pulpit, and an old oak chest with three locks.

In the chapel is an elaborate monument,¹⁹ with bust, in memory of Sir Justinian Isham (d. 1736) and Elizabeth Turner his first wife (d. 1713). There are also tablets to John Isham (d. 1746) and to the Rev. Euseby Isham, rector (d. 1824). In the chancel floor are two brass plates, one in memory of John Isham (d. 1595)

¹ Com. Pleas, Deeds Enr. Mich. 32 Hen. VIII, m. 7 d.

² Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), ci, 93.

³ Exch. Dep. Trin. 24 Chas. I, no. 1.

⁴ D.N.B.

⁵ Recov. R. East. 35 Eliz. ro. 45.

⁶ Ibid. 41 Eliz. ro. 53.

⁷ Bridges, *Hist. of Northants.* ii, 117.

⁸ Recov. R. Trin. 1655, ro. 1.

⁹ Feet of F. Northants. Mich. 22 Chas. II.

¹⁰ *V.C.H. Northants.* i, 340.

¹¹ *Hund. R.* (Rec. Com.), ii, 15.

¹² Pat. R. 6 Eliz. pt. 4.

¹³ *Hist. of Northants.* ii, 117.

¹⁴ *L. and P. Hen. VIII*, xv, g. 282 (109, p. 116).

¹⁵ Ct. of Req. iv, 153.

¹⁶ *Fx inf.* Gyles Isham, esq.

¹⁷ There were two windows before the vestry was built.

¹⁸ The south-west buttress is of the height of two stories: that at the north-west is the whole height of the tower and apparently of comparatively modern date.

¹⁹ The monument is figured in *Assoc. Arch. Soc. Reports*, xxiv, 91.

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and Elizabeth his wife (d. 1594) with three shields of arms, and the other commemorating Thomas Isham (d. 1605) and other members of the family.¹ There is also a blue stone slab, now against the north wall, to Jane Garrard, wife of Justinian Isham, esquire (d. 1638).

There are four bells, the first a recasting by Taylor in 1872 of a bell by Christopher Graye 1663, the second and third by Hugh Watts of Leicester 1641, and the tenor by Toby Norris of Stamford 1616. There is also a priest's bell.²

The plate consists of a silver cup and cover paten of 1653 given by Sir Justinian Isham, 2nd baronet; a paten of 1720 with the Isham arms; and a flagon made by William Fawdery in 1717, but inscribed '1718'.³

In 1907 Sir Vere Isham presented to the church a gilt latten processional cross, c. 1470-80, which had been in his family from at least the time of the first baronet. It is an unusually good example of a type which can be used either as a processional or an altar cross. The base only is wanting.⁴ It was discovered during some building operations in the time of Charles II.⁵

The earlier registers are as follows: (i) baptisms and burials 1587-1688, marriages 1587-1687, but with no entries 1644-8; (ii) baptisms and burials 1653-62, marriages 1655-61, being a duplicate in parchment of part of the first volume; (iii) baptisms and burials 1688-1806, marriages 1692-1753; (iv) marriages 1754-1806. There are churchwardens' accounts beginning in 1699.

The church of Lamport, a rectory *ADVOWSON* to which the chapelry of Faxton is annexed, and in former times the chapelry of Hanging Houghton,⁶ was valued in 1291 at £23 6s. 8d. with pensions deducted.⁷ In 1535 the profits of the rectory in tithes great and small, with issues from the mansion and glebe land, were £48 13s. annually.⁸

The advowson has always been held with the manor (q.v.).

Bridges wrote that there had been formerly a chapel in the hamlet of Hanging Houghton of which no trace

then remained. As early as 1228 two-thirds of the tithes from the demesne of Philip Bosce in Houghton had been granted to Stephen de Axebridge, clerk, with leave for the rector of Lamport to hold the same on lease from him at a rent of one mark.⁹ This may possibly indicate the foundation of this chapel. In 1269 Richard de Lamport, chaplain, was presented by Dom. Richard Trussell, rector and patron of Lamport church, to the chantry of the chapel of Hanging Houghton in the parish of Lamport, and to all the altarge of the chapel, with 20s. annual rent from the parishioners of the said chapel.¹⁰

By the Inclosure Act of 1794 an allotment was made instead of the glebe lands and right of common belonging to them, and instead of the Church Hadley (about half an acre of land vested in the rector and churchwardens for the repair of the church, under the will of Sir Edward Montagu), while a rent-charge was placed on Sir Justinian Isham's lands in lieu of tithes.¹¹

The Isham Charity regulated by a *CHARITIES* scheme of the Charity Commissioners dated 11 February 1910 comprises the Charity of Sir Justinian Isham, bart., will 30 December 1670, and the Charity of Sir Edmund Isham, bart., codicil to will dated 16 November 1762.

The endowment consists of a farm of 46 a. 3 r. 6 p. at Brixworth let for £70 yearly and stock producing about £44 yearly. The scheme directs that a yearly sum of £5 shall be applied for the benefit of poor members of the Church of England who have been for not less than two years resident in one of the ancient townships of Lamport and Hanging Houghton. The residue of the income is applicable in apprenticing to some useful trade or occupation poor children resident in one of the aforementioned townships. There are six trustees, one being Sir Vere Isham.

The United Charities are regulated by a scheme of 2 May 1913. They comprise the building known as the Almshouses at Faxton, founded in 1736, and the Charity of Dame Susannah Danvers, will of about 1730, consisting of a rent-charge out of a field at Pitsford.

OLD *alias* WOLD

Walda, Walde (xi cent.); Waud, Waude, Wauld (xiii cent.); Wolde, Welde (xiv cent.); Olde, Woold, Owlde, Wold or Old (xvi cent.).

The parish of Wold¹² contains 2,076 acres and is situated between 300 and 400 ft. above the ordnance datum. The subsoil is stone, and the soil on the north side is a cold black clay, on the south, red clay and gravel. The chief crops are wheat and barley, and some of the land is devoted to pasture. There are several natural springs in the parish. The population in 1931 was 291.

At the time of the Domesday Survey 2 hides and 3½ virgates of land in Wold and Walgrave belonged to

Faxton manor. It seems probable that the 2½ hides held by Aubrey de Vere of the Bishop of Coutances, given in Domesday Book under Wadenhoe, were actually in Wold, for at the time of the

MANORS Northamptonshire Survey (12th cent.) Aubrey de Vere held there 4 hides and 4 virgates of the fee of Oxford.¹³ The next mention of *WOLD* occurs on the Pipe Roll of 1191, when Osbert de Glanvill owed to Aaron the Jew of Lincoln £40 for his land there.¹⁴

Osbert's son Ranulf, who was a minor in 1199¹⁵ but apparently came of age before 1201¹⁶ and died shortly afterwards, seems to have left three daughters: Isabel,

¹ The inscriptions are given in Bridges, ii, 113-15.

² North, *Ch. Bells of Northants.* 324. Watts's bells are both inscribed 'IHS Nazarenus Rex Judeorum Fili Dei miserere mihi'; the tenor 'Non clamor sed amor cantat in aure Dei'. The priest's bell is blank.

³ Markham, *Ch. Plate of Northants.* 175.

⁴ *Proc. Soc. Ant. Lond.* xxii, 41, where the cross is figured. The arms end in roundels enclosing plates engraved with

the emblems of the four evangelists. The figure of our Lord is silvered over, but the hair, crown of thorns, and loin-cloth are gilt. The images of St. Mary and St. John stand on curved arms.

⁵ *Ex inf.* Gyles Isham, esq., quoting a contemporary letter.

⁶ *Rot. Ric. Gravesend* (Cant. & York Soc.), iii, 113.

⁷ *Tax. P. Nich.* (Rec. Com.), 39.

⁸ *Valor Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), iv, 306.

⁹ *Rot. Hug. de Welles* (Cant. & York

Soc.), ii, 137.

¹⁰ *Rot. Ric. Gravesend.* (Cant. & York Soc.), iii, 113.

¹¹ *Priv. Stat.* 34 Geo. III, cap. 75.

¹² Although the modern fashion is to use the form Old, it seems preferable here to use the older and more correct form Wold.

¹³ *V.C.H. Northants.* i, 306, 309, 362, 380.

¹⁴ *Pipe R.* 3 & 4 Ric. I (Pipe R. Soc.), p. 159.

¹⁵ *Curia Regis R.* i, 96.

¹⁶ *Ibid.* ii, 78.

mother of William St. Leger¹ and (? subsequently) wife of William Mauduit;² Christiane³ wife of William of All Saints; and Margery, who died without issue.⁴ In 1235 two fees in Wold were held of the Earl of Oxford by Walter St. Leger, William of All Saints, Robert de Hastings, and Jordan le Breton;⁵ and seven years later each of these held half a fee, except that William of All Saints was replaced by Robert Rote and Christiane his wife,⁶ obviously the widow of William. Walter's lands were seized by the Crown in 1244 among other 'lands of Normans' and he himself died about the same time. Before this he had leased his land in Wold to William Gaugy of Northampton, who then obtained a confirmation of his lease from the king⁷ but in 1245 was induced to surrender his lease to William St. Leger for 27 marks, to be paid in yearly instalments.⁸ In 1247 William held 12 virgates, formerly Walter's, worth £7,⁹ and at some date before May 1251 he transferred his estate in Wold to William son of Geoffrey St. Leger, lord of Fairlight in Sussex,¹⁰ to whom the king granted right of free warren here in 1254.¹¹ Two years later the king states that he had promised that if he could recover the land of William¹² St. Leger, a Norman, in Wold, he would give it to (this) William, and that he has recovered in his court against Philip son of Robert one rood of land, which he orders shall be handed over to William St. Leger.¹³ Alice, widow of Robert de Beauchamp, and probably daughter of William, succeeded to the St. Leger fee of Fairlight,¹⁴ and the heirs of Alice de Beauchamp are similarly found holding in Wold in 1284;¹⁵ and in both counties the next tenant is James de Audely, who held at Fairlight in 1300¹⁶ and at Wold in 1316.¹⁷ William 'Daudele', who held the half fee in 1360,¹⁸ died in November 1365, leaving the manor to his wife Joan for life with remainder to his brother Thomas.¹⁹ Joan died in 1383 and, Thomas having predeceased her, the lands were inherited by his daughter Elizabeth, then aged 14.²⁰ The manor seems to have passed by marriage into the family of St. Clere of Little Preston,²¹ and was held by Thomas St. Clere at the time of his death in October 1416.²² His heir Philip died without issue and was succeeded by his cousin Thomas, who levied a fine of

the reversion of the manor, then held for life by John Nelond and Margaret his wife, in 1429.²³ As one of the daughters and co-heirs of Thomas married Sir John Gage²⁴ it seems possible that this was the 'Gawgis manor'²⁵ in Wold which was in the hands of William Catesby when he was attained in 1485 and was granted four years later to Sir David Owen.²⁶ John Owen, his second son, who had married a daughter of Sir Richard Catesby,²⁷ had the manor by 1558, when he sold it to Gregory Isham of Braunston.²⁸ Gregory died in September of that year, leaving a son Euseby, and this manor has remained in the Isham family, Sir Vere Isham, bart., being the present owner.



OLD: THE VILLAGE

The half fee held by William of All Saints in 1235 had passed by 1245 into the hands of William Gaugy, who in that year granted it to his son John, retaining a life interest in it.²⁹ Possibly Walter St. Leger had acquired this fee and it was this, and not the St. Leger half fee, which he leased to William Gaugy, as already mentioned. Roger of All Saints, son of William and Christiane, was claiming a half fee here in 1260 against William St. Leger,³⁰ and his grandson³¹ Ralph still held land in the parish in 1330.³² From John Gaugy, who was holding in 1284,³³ the half fee apparently descended to Philip Gaugy, in 1332.³⁴ This may be the half fee held of the Earl of Oxford by the heirs of Thomas Carnell in 1360,³⁵ and by the heirs of William Carnells in 1371³⁶ and of William de la Kervell (*sic*) in 1428.³⁷ William de la Carnail, died in 1349 seised of 40s.

¹ *Cal. Chart.* i, 361.

² *Assize R.* 633, m. 81.

³ In 1205 she was in ward to the Earl of Oxford: *Curia Regis R.* iv, 57.

⁴ *Assize R.* 633, m. 81.

⁵ *Bk. of Fees*, 498.

⁶ *Ibid.* 932.

⁷ *Cal. Close*, 1242-7, p. 218.

⁸ *Ibid.* 303.

⁹ *Bk. of Fees*, 1149.

¹⁰ *Cal. Chart.* i, 361. The grantor is called son of Isabel de Glanville.

¹¹ *Cal. Pat.* 1247-58, p. 336.

¹² This may be a slip for 'Walter', but it is more likely that it refers to William son of Isabel.

¹³ *Cal. Close*, 1254-6, p. 335.

¹⁴ *Anct. D. (P.R.O.)*, C. 1497.

¹⁵ *Feud. Aids*, iv, 2.

¹⁶ *Cal. Inq. Misc.* i, 1820.

¹⁷ *Feud. Aids*, iv, 21.

¹⁸ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* x, p. 518.

¹⁹ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 39 Edw. III (1st nos.) 1; *Cal. Close*, 1364-8, p. 214.

²⁰ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 6 Ric. II, 8.

²¹ *Baker, Hist. Northants.* i, 432.

²² *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 4 Hen. V, 25.

²³ *Feet of F. Northants.* file 94, no. 51.

²⁴ *Baker, loc. cit.*

²⁵ But the distinctive name of the manor may refer to the earlier Gaugy family mentioned in the next paragraph.

²⁶ *Cal. Pat.* 1485-94, p. 275.

²⁷ *Baker, Hist. Northants.* i, 458.

²⁸ *C.P. Deeds enr. East.* 4 & 5 Ph. and Mary.

²⁹ *Feet of F. Northants.* file 46, no. 810.

³⁰ *Assize R.* 616, m. 17 d.

³¹ *Ibid.* 633, m. 81.

³² *Ibid.* m. 60.

³³ *Feud. Aids*, iv, 2.

³⁴ *Cal. Close*, 1330-3, p. 498.

³⁵ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* x, p. 518.

³⁶ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 45 Edw. III (1st nos.), 45.

³⁷ *Feud. Aids*, iv, 33.

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worth of land and rent in Wold held of the Earl of Oxford.¹ His daughter and heir Maud was then aged 1 year. Eventually she married Robert Holdenby of Holdenby, who held the 'manor' in 1375.² On his death in June 1411 he was succeeded by his son John, from whom the manor passed to his second son John. He was succeeded by his son William,³ whose son William died seised of a sixth of a knight's fee in Wold held of the Earl of Oxford in July 1498. His son and heir John was then about 10 years old.⁴ He died without surviving male issue, and on the death of his wife Joyce in 1511 the manor passed to Elizabeth Giles, the sister of William Holdenby.⁵ Elizabeth married as her first husband Henry Hatton, and was succeeded by her son George Hatton. By 1532 he had been succeeded by his son William,⁶ who died in 1546 when the manor passed to his sons Francis, who died without male issue, and Sir Christopher Hatton successively. On the death of Sir Christopher in 1591 his property was left to Sir William Newport *alias* Hatton, the son of his sister Dorothy by John Newport, with remainder to John Hatton, his cousin-german. Sir William died without male issue in March 1597 and was succeeded by Sir Christopher, son of John Hatton,⁷ but the manor is not mentioned among his lands at his death in 1619.⁸

John Malory of Welton held a manor of Wold in 1427,⁹ to which his daughter Eleanor, wife of Sir John Bernard of Isleham (co. Cambs.), had succeeded by 1437.¹⁰ Her daughter Margaret married Thomas Peyton and their son Thomas about 1484 sold the manor of Welton, and probably that of Wold, to William Catesby.¹¹ After his attainder 'Peyton's manor' in Welton and 'Gawgis manor' in Wold, as already mentioned, were given to Sir David Owen.

The half fee of Jordan le Breton was held in 1284 by Hugh le Breton¹² and in 1332 by John.¹³ It had passed by 1371 to the heirs of Robert 'Bret',¹⁴ and by 1428 the estate had become split up into a number of small tenancies.¹⁵

Henry son of Robert de Hastings in 1285 gave the advowson of the church of Wold to Theobald son of Sir Philip son of Sir Robert de Pitsford,¹⁶ and he at once transferred it with 100s. of rent in Wold to his brother William de Landwathe.¹⁷ Bridges,¹⁸ quoting Knightley deeds, says that Aubrey de Vere, Earl of Oxford, had given Langwath in Wold to Sir Robert de Pitsford as one knight's fee and that his son Philip was father of William de Landwathe, who married Isabel daughter of Sir Nicholas de Withmale. There is no further trace of this knight's fee, but in 1284 William de Landwathe replaces Robert de Hastings as the fourth tenant of the two fees.¹⁹ His son John²⁰ held in 1316²¹ and 1332²² and Andrew Landwath held half a fee there in 1360,²³ but at his death, lacking male

issue, it descended to his daughter Isabel, the wife of William Harrowden of Harrowden.²⁴ She was succeeded by her son William who was holding part of the half fee in 1428²⁵ and died in 1423,²⁶ his heir being his son William by his wife Margaret daughter and heir of Sir Giles de St. John of Plumpton.²⁷ William Harrowden died in 1447,²⁸ and the manor remained in the possession of his wife Margaret during her lifetime, but on her death in 1486 passed to her daughter Margery,²⁹ who was twice married, first to Henry Skennard and secondly to William Garnon. Her successor was Joan, the child of her first marriage and wife of Sir Richard Knightley of Fawsley.³⁰ On her death in 1539 her third and eldest surviving son, Sir Edmund Knightley, inherited *KNIGHTLEY'S MANOR* in Wold. In April 1542 he gave all his land in Wold to the king in exchange for other property.³¹ From the king Knightley's Manor passed to Thomas Reeve of London and Giles Isham, who sold it to Thomas Dallison.³² He died in April 1562 and was succeeded by his son Edward.³³ In 1608 Thomas Dexter died seised of the manor, leaving it to his wife Elizabeth during her lifetime, with remainder to their son Stephen and his son Gregory. Stephen was at that time 50 years old.³⁴

In March 1497 John Smith died seised of a manor in Wold, which he held of the Earl of Oxford in socage. From the descent of the advowson it appears probable that he had acquired this manor by marriage with a Harrowden. He was succeeded by his cousin Margaret, the wife of Thomas Spencer,³⁵ who at her husband's death married Edmund Belcher. On her death in March 1501³⁶ the manor passed to her son William Spencer. He married Agnes, daughter and heir of Thomas Heritage, and their son Thomas succeeded to the manor in 1531.³⁷ Thomas Spencer married Dorothy, daughter of Sir William Spencer of Althorp, and on his death in 1576 the manor passed to his third and eldest surviving son William, who conveyed it to John Cotton, Anthony Roper, and three others early in 1577.³⁸

Land in Wold was also held of the honor of Huntingdon as part of a quarter fee in Wold and Holcot (q.v.).

The church of *ST. ANDREW* stands *CHURCH* on the south side of the village, and consists of chancel 28 ft. 4 in. by 17 ft. 9 in., clerestoried nave of four bays 52 ft. 6 in. by 24 ft. 3 in., south aisle 13 ft. 6 in. wide, north porch, and west tower 13 ft. by 12 ft. 2 in., all these measurements being internal.

The building was extensively restored in 1874-5, when the chancel was almost entirely modernized and a vestry and organ-chamber added, one on either side. The restoration also included the removal of a west

¹ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* ix, no. 321.

² Feet of F. Northants. 49 Edw. III, no. 675.

³ Baker, *Hist. Northants.* 196.

⁴ *Cal. Inq. Hen. VII*, ii, no. 232.

⁵ Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), xxvi, 49.

⁶ Feet of F. Northants. Hil. 23 Hen. VIII.

⁷ Bridges, *Hist. of Northants.* i, 528.

⁸ Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), ccclxxvi, 100.

⁹ *Cat. Ancr. Deeds*, iv, 176.

¹⁰ Close R. 5 Edw. IV, m. 21.

¹¹ *Cal. Pat.* 1485-94, p. 275.

¹² *Feud. Aids*, iv, 2.

¹³ *Cal. Close*, 1330-3, p. 498.

¹⁴ Chan. Inq. p.m. 45 Edw. III (1st nos.), 45.

¹⁵ *Feud. Aids*, iv, 33.

¹⁶ Knightley Charters (*penes* Northants. Rec. Soc.), nos. 22, 24.

¹⁷ *Ibid.* no. 23.

¹⁸ *Hist. of Northants.* ii, 131.

¹⁹ *Feud. Aids*, iv, 2.

²⁰ Knightley Charters, no. 49.

²¹ *Feud. Aids*, iv, 21.

²² *Cal. Close*, 1330-3, p. 498.

²³ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* x, 518.

²⁴ Baker, *Hist. Northants.* ii, 97; and

Chan. Inq. p.m. 45 Edw. III (1st nos.), 45.

²⁵ Other tenants of the half fee were

William Malory and John Cranesle: *Feud. Aids*, iv, 33.

²⁶ Baker, *Hist. Northants.* ii, 97.

²⁷ Chan. Inq. p.m. 20 Hen. VI, 19.

²⁸ *Ibid.* 26 Hen. VI, 27.

²⁹ *Cal. Inq. Hen. VII*, i, no. 295.

³⁰ *V.C.H. Northants.* i, 416.

³¹ *L. and P. Hen. VIII*, xvii, g, 285 (6).

³² Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), cxxxv, 51.

³³ *Ibid.*

³⁴ *Ibid.* ccxiv, 32.

³⁵ *Cal. Inq. Hen. VII*, ii, no. 244.

³⁶ Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), xv, 56.

³⁷ *Ibid.* lxxix, 290.

³⁸ Feet of F. Northants. Hil. 19 Eliz.

gallery and the stripping of the plaster from the walls inside, new roofs to chancel and aisle, and the renovation of the fine 15th-century roof of the nave.

No part of the existing building is older than the latter part of the 13th century, to which period the south doorway and a piscina and aumbry at the east end of the aisle belong: three windows with forked mullions in the aisle are little if any later in date, but whether any of these features is in its original position is uncertain. If the 13th-century church had an aisle it would be narrower than at present, but the east end may represent a chantry chapel, to the depth of which the aisle was afterwards widened. The tower is of the latter part of the 14th century and the chancel may have been rebuilt in its present form at the same time, but no ancient features remain. The chancel arch, however, is of 15th-century date, and in that period, perhaps about 1480, the nave assumed its present aspect, the arcade being rebuilt, the clerestory and porch added, and the aisle probably widened. The tower is embattled but the parapets elsewhere are plain; the roofs of the nave and chancel are covered with modern slates.

The church is built throughout of rubble and the chancel has an east window of four lights with modern Decorated tracery and a modern window of two lights on the south side. The piscina and double sedilia are also modern. In the north wall is a flat four-centred arched recess containing a tablet to Alexander Ibs, rector (d. 1606). The chancel arch is of two moulded orders, on responds with capitals and bases similar to those of the nave arcades, which have chamfered arches of two orders. The piers are composed of four rounded shafts with hollows between and the responds are half-octagonal. On the north wall of the nave are two 15th-century four-centred windows each of three cinquefoiled lights, and a four-centred doorway to the porch with carved spandrels: the original oak nail-studded door remains. The roof is of five bays, of flat pitch, with wall-pieces below the principals resting on stone corbels carved with angels bearing shields with emblems of the Passion. There are five two-light clerestory windows on the south side, but only four on the north, the easternmost bay being blank.

The aisle is now open at its east end to the organ-chamber by a modern arch, but the piscina and aumbry remain in the south wall, the former with a trefoiled arch ornamented with dog tooth, and jamb-shafts with moulded capitals and bases; the aumbry trefoil-headed and rebated all round. The easternmost window has been restored and has early tracery in the head, but the others are of two lights, c. 1280-90. The doorway is of two orders, the inner square and the outer hollow-chamfered on angle shafts with moulded capitals and bases. It is no longer used, but the door remains. Near to the doorway is a square-headed window of two lights and segmental rear arch, the sill of which is only about 2 ft. 10 in. above the floor. It appears to

be of 14th-century date, and its west light seems to have been used as a low-side window.¹

The tower is of four stages, with diagonal buttresses and a vice in the south-west angle. The west doorway has continuous moulded head and jambs and above is a four-centred window of three cinquefoiled lights. The bell-chamber windows are of three trefoiled lights with quatrefoil in the head and transom at half height, the lower lights being cusped. Below the parapet is a band of quatrefoils. The tower arch is of three chamfered orders.

The font is ancient, and has an octagonal panelled bowl with quatrefoils in circles and shields in the hollow member beneath, four blank and four with a fret, possibly for Audley.

The oak pulpit dates from the time of the restoration of the church, but the lower panels are made up from old bench-ends formerly in the gallery.

The old glass described by Bridges as in the east window is now in the square-headed window of the aisle: it has the figure of a man in a blue gown carrying the devil on his back and over his head a label inscribed in black-letter characters 'All claterers i the kyrght . . . schall hae yow for yowr waight'.² It is probably of early-16th-century date.

Below the tower are mural tablets to Tresham Chapman (d. 1794), John Chapman (d. 1795), and others of later date.

There are five bells in the tower, the treble by T. Mears of London, 1825, the second dated 1723, the third 1631, the fourth a medieval bell inscribed 'Missi de Celis habeo nomen Gabrieli', from the Leicester foundry, and the tenor by Hugh Watts of Leicester, 1639.³

The plate consists of a silver paten without marks inscribed 'Old, 1683', and a cup and cover paten of 1758 by John Payn, of Cheapside.⁴

The registers before 1812 are as follows: (i) baptisms and marriages 1560-1653, burials 1559-1653; (ii) baptisms 1653^s-4, 1662-92, marriages 1664-94, burials 1663-78; (iii) burials 1678-1790; (iv) baptisms 1692-1790, marriages 1695-1754; (v) marriages 1754-1812; (vi) baptisms and burials 1790-1812.

The churchwardens' accounts begin in 1686. There are copies of the Book of Homilies 1676, Jewel's Apology 1611, and a Paraphrase of Erasmus containing Romans to Revelation.

About 1235 Robert de Hastings *ADVOWSON* successfully brought an action against Jordan le Breton, William of All Saints and Christiane his wife, Walter St. Leger, William Maudit, and Walter de Eringwurth, who claimed the patronage of the church.⁶ By 1275 the advowson was in the hands of Thomas de Slypston and Letya his wife who had recovered it against Alice de Beauchamp, John de Gaugy, and Hugh le Breton.⁷ Henry de Hastings granted the advowson in 1285 to Theobald

¹ *Assoc. Arch. Soc. Rpts.* xxix, 437: 'The east light was evidently always glazed as the jamb and east side of the mullion have hollowed splays, while for a height of about 2 ft. 6 in. the jamb and west side of the mullion are square inside, showing that the lower part of the west light had a shutter.' The window is 4 ft. 9 in. high and the sill 3 ft. 9 in. above the ground outside. Its position is 4 ft. to the east of the doorway.

² Bridges, *Hist. of Northants.* ii, 132. The inscription is now difficult to decipher.

³ North, *Ch. Bells of Northants.* 352, where the inscriptions are given. The medieval bell has three stamps, one of which, a cross with the words 'ihū merci ladi help', was in the hands of the Leicester founders. The same stamps occur on a bell at Wilby. The third bell has Hugh Watts's shield, but the other stamps are those of Tobie Norris of Stamford. Before 1825 there were four bells only.

⁴ Markham, *Ch. Plate of Northants.* 218.

⁵ In the year 1653 is an entry by John

Bullyvante, rector, to the effect that on Sept. 22 the register was taken away and 'by a pretended act of Cromwell's usurpation delivered into the custody of Edward Corbie, blacksmith and parish clerk', who was constituted and sworn the Register of the Parish.

⁶ *Rot. Roberti Grosseteste* (Cant. & York Soc.), 160. Eringwurth's claim was by grant from Maudit: *Assize R.* 633, m. 81.

⁷ *Rot. Ricardi Gravesend* (Cant. & York Soc.), 126.

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brother of William de Landwathe,¹ and it descended with the Landwathe manor until 1466, when Margery Harrowden presented.² It seems then to have become divided into moieties, as John Smith presented in 1489 and William Lane, by grant of Smith's representative William Spencer, in 1511, while James Charell in right of his wife Helen, widow of Thomas Harrowden, presented in 1510 and 1529.³ Sir Edmund Knightley surrendered his patronage with the manor to Henry VIII, and in 1557 or 1558 it was granted to Gregory and John Isham.⁴ John Smith's moiety passed from his heirs Margaret Belcher and William Spencer to William Lane who held it in 1516.⁵ His son Ralph who died in 1540 held half the advowson, which was sold with the land for £40 by his son Robert Lane to John Isham in 1569.⁶ Euseby Isham, the son of Gregory, granted his moiety to John Isham, who sold both shares to Giles Barnwell in 1575, from whom it was purchased for £240 by Sir Christopher Hatton the next year.⁷ Remaining in the possession of his family until 1676, the advowson was then sold by Christopher, Lord Hatton, to Brasenose College, Oxford,⁸ the present patrons.

The Rev. John Townson, D.D.,⁹ by *CHARITIES* deed dated 12 May 1668 conveyed a messuage and land in the parish of Duston to trustees for the benefit of the poor of Wold. On an inclosure of the parish of Duston an allotment of 33 acres was set out in lieu of the lands devised. The land is let for about £107 yearly.

John Ward by deed dated 25 August 1707 conveyed to trustees a cottage in Wold for the poor. The premises were sold at the time of the inclosure for £20, which sum was applied towards the inclosure expenses of Townson's land.

On an inclosure of the parish 1768 an allotment of 24 acres was awarded to the rector, churchwardens, and overseers. The charity is regulated by a scheme of the Charity Commissioners dated 3 January 1908 under which one-third of the net income forms the Poor's Allotment educational foundation and the residue is applicable for the general benefit of the poor and is distributed in bread. The land is let for £15 yearly.

Avice Lucas gave £40 for industrious poor widows or fatherless children. This sum together with £28 arising from the rents of Townson's Charity was laid out in the purchase of 1 a. 1 r. of land which was conveyed to trustees by indenture dated 13 April 1752. The land, which is usually called The Smaller Poor's Close, is let for £9 10s. yearly which is distributed by the trustees of Townson's Charity to poor widows.

The Church Cottages and Church or Town Land, as to which no deeds or writings are to be found, consist of several small properties, producing about £45. There is a charge of £5 a year on the Church Allotments in respect of Parr's Benefaction. The Cottages and School Garden were determined in 1906 as being applicable to educational purposes together with £3, part of the interest of James Parr's Benefaction. The remainder of the rents is applied by the rector and churchwardens to church expenses.

James Parr in 1774 gave £100 upon trust that £2 a year be distributed among the poor at the discretion of the minister, churchwardens, and overseers and the residue of the interest, about £3, paid to the schoolmaster for the instruction of six children.

A rent-charge of 15s. originating under the will of Francis Baxter is paid by Mr. H. E. Beers out of an orchard in Wold. The money is distributed in bread by the trustees of Parr's Charity.

ORLINGBURY

Ordinbaro (xi cent.); Orlingberge (xii cent.); Orlingber, Orlingeber (xiii cent.); Orlebere (xvi cent.); Orlebear (xvii cent.).

Orlingbury is a compact parish about twice as long as it is broad, with an area of 1,939 acres. The soil is of good fertile mixed character, the substratum being Great Oolite limestone, white sand, ironstone, and Upper Lias clay. The principal crops are cereals.

The western edge of the parish, bounded by Walgrave and Hannington, is about 450 ft. above the ordnance datum. From this the ground slopes slowly to the east, and in the north-east corner of the parish, around the village of Orlingbury itself, the level falls to 330 ft. In the south-east the ground falls rapidly, and is only 220 ft. at the parish boundary on the Orlingbury-Little Harrowden road.

The village green, around which the village is built, is at the crossing of two by-roads, which connect it with the Harrowdens, Pytchley, Broughton, Hannington, and Isham. South-east of the village green, on the crest of the hill facing Little Harrowden, is Orlingbury Hall, built by Richard Young soon after 1700, and now the

residence of Mrs. Jacques. It is a well-designed building of two stories, with barred sash windows, pedimented doorway, and grey-slatted eaved roofs. It is faced with local ironstone and the long front elevation is divided into three bays by wide pilasters. It stands on the site of the old manor-house inhabited successively by the Lanes, Toftes, and Chibnalls; which, in 1678, contained about 20 rooms and paid tax on 13 hearths.¹⁰ On the right of the hall is the rectory, built in 1703,¹¹ and on the opposite side of the green stands the church of St. Mary. South-east of the church is a gabled rectangular dovecote, probably of the 17th century but without architectural features.¹² A small chapel for dissenters was built in 1830, and there is a public elementary school, erected in 1845.

The village itself is very compact, but scattered in the fields to the west are several farms. In the far north-east corner of the parish stands Badsaddle Lodge, a house which, in Bridges' time (c. 1700) was moated.¹³ South-east of this on the Orlingbury-Hannington road stands Wythmail Park Farm, a moated house which marks the site of an ancient hamlet and manor of that name.

¹ Knightley charters, nos. 22-4.

² Bridges, *Hist. of Northants.* ii, 172.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid. ii, 132.

⁵ Isham Book of Deeds, p. 148.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Ibid. and Feet of F. Mich. 18 and 19 Eliz.

⁸ *Brasenose Quatercentenary Monographs* (Oxford Hist. Soc.), vi, 49.

⁹ His father, Robert Townson, held the living of Wold from 1617 till 1620, when he became Bishop of Salisbury: *Dict. Nat. Biog.*

¹⁰ Lay Subsidy Northants. 254, no. 14.

¹¹ The date and the initials of Nathaniel Bridges, then rector, are on a spout-head.

¹² *Northants N. & Q.* iv, 66.

¹³ Bridges, *Hist. of Northants.* ii, 121.

A terrier of Beaver's Manor made in 1673 mentions a windmill.¹

Owen Manning (1721-1801), the historian of Surrey, was born in the village; his father or grandfather Owen Manning is recorded as a tenant of the 'towne-house' in 1673.²

In Domesday Survey Fulcher (Male-MANORS sources) held of Walter the Fleming 2½ hides in 'Widmale'.³ Walter the Fleming's lands formed the barony of Odell (Wahull), and in the Survey, temp. Henry I, Fulcher Malesoures held of the fee of Wahull 1 hide in Orlingbury and 1½ hides and 1 virgate in Withmale;⁴ from which it would appear that of the 2½ hides which Domesday allocates to Withmale one hide was really in Orlingbury. This hide was the land which in later times was known as BEAVER'S MANOR. The Malesoures, and later their successors the Trussells, held it of the barony of Odell as part of their manor of Lamport (q.v.), the local tenants in early days being the family of de Orlingbury.

In 1130 Simon Malesoures, Gerald de Wismalua, and Alvred de Orlinberga were concerned in deer-stealing.⁵ A Simon de Orlingbury was a surveyor of repairs to certain royal houses in 1174,⁶ and Ralph father of Robert de Orlingbury was named in the Hundred Rolls for 1276.⁷ Robert de Orlingbury held one third of a fee of Richard Trussell and he of William Trussell, who held it of John de Wahull in 1284,⁸ and was succeeded before 1316 by Hugh de Orlingbury.⁹ Another Robert de Orlingbury held a quarter fee in 1347,¹⁰ and an Adam de Orlingbury is recorded in 1351;¹¹ no later references to this family have been found in connexion with Orlingbury. It was apparently this manor which John Piel of Irthlingborough and others purchased in 1377 from Henry Piel, Archdeacon of Northants., and William Braybrooke, parson of the church of Cransley.¹² John Piel died in 1386, when the manor, with that of Irthlingborough and several others, descended to his son Nicholas Piel, an annuity of 50 marks being granted to his widow Joan.¹³ Nicholas died in 1406 leaving a son and heir John, then under age and in the custody of William, Abbot of Bury.¹⁴ In 1412 a John Beamer (probably a scribe's error for Beaver) and others purchased from Andrew Newbottill and Joan his wife a third part of the manor of Orlingbury,¹⁵ and in 1428 Robert le Bever was holding a quarter fee late of Robert de Orlingbury.¹⁶ In 1469 Thomas Beavyr and Isabel his wife sold the manor, called for the first time 'Beavyr's manor', to William Tanfield of Gayton.¹⁷ Before 1502 it had passed to William Lane of Orlingbury, who died

seised of it in that year, together with certain lands in Orlingbury called 'Blakys' and 'Monkeys'.¹⁸ His son and heir Ralph, then aged 36, died without issue and the manor devolved on his nephew Sir Ralph Lane of Horton. Sir Ralph died in 1540 leaving a son Robert, then under age, and a widow Maud, who was granted an annuity of £50 from the estate during Robert's minority.¹⁹ In 1572 Sir Robert Lane sold the manor to William Tofte of the Middle Temple,²⁰ who died in 1575.²¹ His son William died without issue in 1599,²² when the manor passed to his sister Elizabeth, the wife of Godfrey Chibnall of Orlingbury, and of Astwood, Bucks. In the following year the manor was claimed by Roger Dale for his infant daughter Elizabeth, as heir of his wife Elizabeth, the daughter of William Tofte senior by his first wife.²³ An agreement²⁴ was reached shortly afterwards whereby Godfrey and Elizabeth Chibnall remained in undisturbed possession, to the complete exclusion of the infant Elizabeth, who was, according to the considered opinion of Serjeant Pemberton given in 1680, unjustly disinherited. A settlement of the manor took place in 1618²⁵ on the marriage of Thomas Chibnall, the son of Godfrey and Elizabeth, who inherited on the death of his mother in 1631.²⁶ At the death of Thomas in 1673²⁷ the manor passed to his only son Godfrey, who died without issue in 1678, having willed the manor to his widow Anne for life, with remainder to his sisters Frances and Elizabeth.²⁸ They sold the manor in 1682 to John and Nathaniel Bridges,²⁹ a claim to it by another Godfrey Chibnall, nephew of Thomas, being unsuccessful.³⁰



CHIBNALL. *Azure two leopards or between two fanches ermine.*



YOUNG, of Orlingbury. *Argent a bend sable with three griffons' heads or thereon.*

Brook Bridges inherited half the manor from Nathaniel, and purchased the other half from John in 1685, the whole manor being conveyed to Richard Young in 1705.³¹ At his death in 1751 he was succeeded by his son Allen Young, who died in 1796.³² The estate then

¹ Deeds in possession of Mr. Chibnall. Two late Elizabethan and one early Jacobean Court Rolls of Beavers Manor are preserved. Thomas Chibnall refers to these when, some little time before his death in 1673, he wrote an account of the then tenants of his estate so that his son Godfrey could hold a Court Baron. (No record of such Court is preserved.) The terrier is very informative, and is the only known reference which shows that the other manor in Orlingbury was known as 'Loges'.

² Deeds in possession of Mr. Chibnall.

³ *V.C.H. Northants.* i, 340.

⁴ *Ibid.* 382.

⁵ *Pipe R. 31 Hen. I* (Pipe R. Soc.), 84.

⁶ *Ibid.* 22 Hen. II, 47.

⁷ *Hund. R.* (Rec. Com.), ii, 12.

⁸ *Feud. Aids*, iv, 1.

⁹ *Ibid.* iv, 22.

¹⁰ Bridges, *Hist. of Northants.* ii, 121.

¹¹ Chan. Extents for debt, 24 Edw. III, 8/12.

¹² Feet of F. Northants. Edw. III, file 85, no. 696.

¹³ Close 9 Rich. II, pt. 1, m. 8 d.

¹⁴ Add. MS. 25288, f. 44 d.

¹⁵ Feet of F. Northants. Hen. IV, file 91, no. 103.

¹⁶ *Feud. Aids*, iv, 33.

¹⁷ Feet of F. Northants. Edw. IV, file 96, no. 23.

¹⁸ Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), xvi, 70. The manor was worth £8 yearly and was held of Anne Trussell for scalty and 12d. rent.

¹⁹ *L. and P. Hen. VIII*, vol. xvii, g. 443 (13).

²⁰ Feet of F. Northants. Hil. 14 Eliz.

²¹ Parish Register.

²² Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), cclxi, 58.

²³ Chan. Proc. Eliz. D. d. 10, 59.

²⁴ Deed in possession of Mr. Chibnall; Feet of F. Northants. Hil. 43 Eliz.; Com.

Pleas Recov. R. Trin. 42 Eliz. m. 40.

²⁵ Deed in possession of Mr. Chibnall; Feet of F. Northants. Hil. 17 Jas. I; Com. *Pleas Recov. R. East.* 18 Jas. I, m. 57.

²⁶ Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), cccxciii, 104. The manor was held of Sir John Isham as of his manor of Lamport.

²⁷ Letters of Administration in possession of Mr. Chibnall.

²⁸ Probate Registry Northants. Book E (3rd Ser.), fol. 59.

²⁹ Deeds in possession of Mr. Chibnall; Feet of F. Northants. Hil. 32-3 Chas. II.

³⁰ Serjeant Pemberton's Brief, in possession of Mr. Chibnall.

³¹ Deeds in possession of Mrs. Young; Feet of F. Northants. Hil. 3 & 4 Jas. II; *Ibid.* Trin. 3 Anne.

³² *Northants. Families (V.C.H.)*, 359, 'Young of Orlingbury'.

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passed to his surviving son Allen Edward Young, who was succeeded at his death in 1835 by his eldest son Allen Allcocke Young. He entailed the estate so that at his death in 1895 it passed to his grandson Arthur St. Leger Newton Young, the eldest son of his son Richard Newton Young. Col. Arthur St. Leger Newton Young was killed during the Great War, when the estate devolved on his only son, Richard Arthur Allcocke Young, a minor. The trustees of the estate sold it in 1920 to Mrs. Jacques of Orlingbury Hall, who is the present possessor.

In 1086 Fulcher Malesoures held of the Count of Mortain 3 virgates in Ordinbaro.¹ At the later survey, temp. Henry I, he held 1½ hides of the honor of de Courcy.² The overlordship of the fee remained with this honor during the next three centuries, but some time before 1506³ appears to have come into the hands of the Trussells of Lamport, intermediary lords of Beaver's Manor mentioned above.

The local tenants were the Loges family, from whom the holding derived its name of *LOGES MANOR*. The first recorded member is a Simon de Loges in 1242.⁴ Richard de Loges, the successor of Simon, paid scutage for half a knight's fee in Orlingbury, Harrowden, and Isham in 1284 and 1296.⁵ A William de Loges is recorded in 1347 and 1351.⁶ Either he or a successor of the same name sold the manor in 1374 to William Thurling.⁷ Alice Thurling is recorded as owner of half a fee, late William Loges, in 1428.⁸ Within the next few years, possibly by marriage, the manor passed to the Withmales (see that manor), for in 1506 Sir Thomas Pulteney died seized of it in right of his wife Rose, the heiress of the Withmales.⁹ It then passed to their grandson, another Sir Thomas Pulteney, whose son, Michael sold it in 1565 to William, 2nd Lord Vaux of Harrowden.¹⁰ Edward, 4th Lord Vaux, died without male issue in 1661, when the manor passed to his wife's son Nicholas, titular 3rd Earl of Banbury.¹¹ At his death it passed to Charles, titular 4th earl, who, with Sir John Briscoe, mortgaged the manor in 1688 to Lord Ashburnham. Lord Ashburnham's executors seem to have foreclosed on the property a few years later and sold it to Richard Young of Orlingbury, who was in possession some time before 1717.¹² The history of the manor then follows that of Beavers mentioned above.

*BADSADDLE*¹³ is not mentioned in Domesday, but at the survey temp. Henry I Fulcher Malesoures held ½ hide in 'Bateshasel' of the fee of Wahull (Odell).¹⁴ It descended, with the other Malesoures property, to the Trussells. John Trussell was holding the manor in 1285, when it was stated that Badsaddle, Withmale, and Orlingbury ought to be represented together as one vill at the sheriff's tourn.¹⁵ William Trussell of Lamport was the tenant at the death of Thomas de Wahull in 1303.¹⁶ The extent of the manor was then given as one capital messuage, one water-mill, and certain customary work.

In the early part of the 14th century Sir John Trussell sold it to Henry Green the younger and Isabel his wife, the sale being confirmed by his son William Trussell in 1349.¹⁷ Sir Thomas Green died in 1392 seized of the manor, which was then held of Richard Chamberleyn.¹⁸ His son and heir Sir Thomas Green was recorded as owner in 1395.¹⁹ The manor passed, like Great Harrowden (q.v.), to Nicholas, 1st Lord Vaux of Harrowden, and Thomas, 2nd Lord Vaux, sold it to Richard Humphrey of Barton Seagrave, who was the owner at his death in 1558.²⁰ The manorial rights seem then to have lapsed, and a lawsuit of 1571 stated that certain lands called Battsadell in Orlingbury, which had long been common of pasture, had recently been hedged and converted into a park by William Humphrey of Barton Seagrave.²¹ Bridges stated that the land at his time was owned by Osborne Fisher and Lord Arran.²² Badsaddle Lodge was owned in 1846 by Lewis Loyd, at whose death in 1858 it passed to his son Samuel Jones Loyd, created Lord Overstone. The trustees of Lord Overstone's estate sold it in 1920 to Mr. C. H. Tomkins, the present possessor.

*WYTHMAIL*²³ can be traced as a hamlet from the 11th to the 15th centuries. Although a priest is mentioned in Withmale in 1086, this must refer to Orlingbury, as the hamlet was always a parcel of Orlingbury parish. It is true that in 1357 John de Wythmale granted land to the parson of Orlingbury to provide for services in Withmale chapel, but this was probably a private chapel attached to his own manor-house.

On the marriage of Rose, the heiress of the Wythmales, with Sir William Pulteney at the end of the 15th century, the hamlet was allowed to decay, and the land seems to have merged into the common fields of Orlingbury—for Bridges states that when Wythmail Park was made in 1614 the 300 acres inclosed were taken out of the common fields. He adds that the land was disparted in 1657; but the name has survived. Wythmail *alias* Wilmer Park is mentioned frequently in the 19th century and at the present time there is a moated house called Wythmail Park Farm.

WYTHMAIL MANOR. Widmale was rated at 2½ hides in 1086 and was held by Fulcher (Malesoures) of Walter the Fleming.²⁴ A later survey, temp. Henry I, assigns only 1½ hides and 1 virgate to Withmale,²⁵ the other hide being in Orlingbury (see Beaver's Manor above). The manor, like that of Beaver's, formed part of the honor of Wahull (Odell), and was held by the Malesoures, and later their successors the Trussells, as part of the manor of Lamport. The Withmale family were the local tenants. Nicholas de Withmale held ⅔ of a fee here in 1284,²⁶ and in 1305 he and his wife Alice settled the manor on their son Nicholas.²⁷ Another John de Withmale was owner in 1346,²⁸ and a survey of the manor taken four years later showed that it was worth £4 8s. 4d. per annum.²⁹ It was apparently this John who in 1357 settled a messuage and 1½ virgates

¹ *V.C.H. Northants.* i, 32.

² *Ibid.* 382.

³ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), xx, 88. The manor was held of Eliz. Trussell as of her manor of Lamport by fealty and 4s. rent.

⁴ *Bk. of Fees*, ii, 931.

⁵ *Feud. Aids*, iv, 1.

⁶ Bridges, *Northamptonshire*, ii, 121; *Chan. Extents for Debt*, 24 Edw. III, 8/12.

⁷ Feet of F. Northants. file 85, no. 658.

⁸ *Feud. Aids*, iv, 33.

⁹ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), xx, 88.

¹⁰ *Anct. D.* (P.R.O.), A. 12638.

¹¹ See under Harrowden, p. 181.

¹² Deeds in possession of Mrs. Young.

¹³ Bateshasel (xii cent.); Badshasel, Bateshasel (xiv cent.); Battsadell, Battsadell (xvi cent.).

¹⁴ *V.C.H. Northants.* i, 382.

¹⁵ Assize R. 619, m. 61.

¹⁶ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* iv, 219.

¹⁷ *Cal. Close*, 1346-9, p. 524.

¹⁸ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 15 Rich. II.

¹⁹ *Ibid.* 19 Rich. II, 52.

²⁰ *Ibid.* (Ser. 2), iii, 3. The extent was 20 acres meadow, 200 acres pasture, and

20 acres wood. Service unknown.

²¹ *Chan. Proc.* (Ser. 2), 175 (15).

²² Bridges, *Northamptonshire*, ii, 121.

²³ Widmale (xi cent.); Wymale, Wythmale (xiii cent.); Withmale (xvi cent.); Wilmer Park (xviii cent.); Wythmail (xix cent.).

²⁴ *V.C.H. Northants.* i, 340.

²⁵ *Ibid.* 382. ²⁶ *Feud. Aids*, iv, 1.

²⁷ Feet of F. Northants. file 60, no. 472.

²⁸ Bridges, *Hist. of Northants.* ii, 121.

²⁹ *Chan. Extents for Debt* 24 Edw. III, 8/12.



ORLINGBURY: THE OLD CHURCH, FROM THE SOUTH-EAST, c. 1800



ORLINGBURY: THE NEW CHURCH

of land on Adam Trussell, parson of Orlingbury, to find a priest to perform services three times a week in Withmale chapel.¹ Another John was returned as owner in 1428,² and at his death, or perhaps that of his son, the manor descended to Rose Withmale, wife of Sir William Pulteney. Sir William died seised of the manor, together with that of Loges in Orlingbury, in 1507,³ and for the next 150 years the descent of the manor follows that of Loges (q.v.).

In 1654⁴ Edward, 4th Lord Vaux of Harrowden, settled a yearly rent of £50 issuing out of Withmale Park on Frances Harvey. At Lord Vaux's death in 1661 it passed by previous settlement to Nicholas, titular 3rd Earl of Banbury.⁵ Charles, titular 4th earl, sold it in 1694 to Thomas Wentworth,⁶ with Great Harrowden (q.v.), with which manor it passed to the Earls Fitzwilliam, who continued to own it until recent times, when it was sold to Mrs. Jacques, the present owner of Orlingbury Hall.

The church of *ST. MARY* was entirely *CHURCH* rebuilt in 1843 on a new plan, and consists of chancel with north vestry, lofty central tower, north and south transepts, aisleless nave, and south porch. It is in the style of the 14th century, faced with local ironstone, with embattled parapets and low-pitched roof. The east window is circular, but the others are pointed, those of the bell-chamber being of three trefoiled lights with reticulated tracery. The tower is in two stages above the roof, and has open traceried parapets and tall angle pinnacles. The building was repaired in 1912.

The old church, according to Bridges, consisted of chancel, nave, north cross-aisle, and west tower and spire,⁷ but no adequate record of it has been preserved.

The 14th-century alabaster effigy, already described,⁸ lies in a wall recess on the north side of the chancel, a position similar to that which it occupied in the old church. In the chancel (south wall) a brass plate records the burial-place of John Mar (father of Henry Mar, rector), who died 2 August 1450,⁹ and in the floor of the south transept are the figure brasses of William Lane (d. 1502) and Elizabeth his wife, but the portion of inscription recorded by Bridges is missing. The figures are no longer in their proper relative positions, and the four brass shields, which were formerly at the corners of the original slab, are now on an adjoining stone.¹⁰ In the floor of the south transept also are brass plates to Thomas Chybnale (d. 1673), his son Godfrey (d. 1678),¹¹ and his two wives, Elizabeth eldest daughter of Thomas Andrew (d. 1643) and Elizabeth daughter of Sir John Wingfield (d. 1671). In the chancel is a floor-slab with the name of Alexander Ekins, rector (d. 1699), and a mural tablet to Charles Sturgis, rector and canon of Lincoln (d. 1745). The south transept,

which has a separate entrance on the west side, contains various 18th-century tablets to members of the Young family.

The font now used is modern, but the bowl of an ancient one, much weathered, is in the south transept. It is roughly octagonal, but quite plain. There is a 17th-century oak chest.

The tower contains a ring of five bells cast by Thomas Mears of London in 1843. They were rehung and rededicated in 1919.¹²

The plate consists of a cup and cover paten of 1637, a bread-holder of about 1673 inscribed '1691 Patina ecclesiae de Orlingbury ex dono Alexandri Ekins Rectoris Ecclesiae praedictae', and a flagon of 1776 inscribed 'Orlingbury: the gift of a pious and charitable Lady 1776'.¹³

The registers begin in 1564, but the years 1653 to 1668 are missing. Before 1812 the volumes are as follows: (i) all entries 1564-1653; (ii) baptisms 1667/8-1750, marriages 1668-1749, burials 1667/8-1751; (iii) baptisms and burials 1749-1812; (iv) marriages 1754-83; (v) marriages 1783-1812. Penances are recorded in 1753, 1757, and 1763, and briefs between 1699 and 1722. There is also a parchment roll consisting of many strips stitched together, with entries of baptisms, marriages, and burials 1564-1646.

The advowson of Orlingbury *ADFOWSON* appears to have belonged from the earliest times to the honor of Wahull (Odell), and was probably held by the Malesoures, for their successors, the Trussells, held the right of presentation as parcel of their manor of Lamport,¹⁴ with which it passed to the Veres. The 17th Earl of Oxford sold it with Lamport Manor to John Isham, who sold the right of presentation in 1561 to Sir Robert Lane,¹⁵ then owner of Beaver's Manor. It followed the descent of this manor through the Toftes, Chibnalls, and Bridges, but was retained by Brook Bridges at the sale of the manor to Richard Young in 1705. The Bridges family presented until the middle of the 19th century, but had disposed of the right before 1874, when it was in the possession of the then rector. Mrs. Jacques of Orlingbury Hall is the present patron of the living.

In 1254 Orlingbury church was valued at 13 marks and in 1535 at £20 17s. 10d.¹⁶

In 1750 Robert Bushby left £10 *CHARITIES* and in 1818 Joseph Manning left £18 to the poor. In 1874 these produced 10s. and 18s. per annum respectively, but at the present time the combined value is only 15s. per annum, and this is distributed in bread to the poor on Christmas Day.

Eighteen acres of land called 'Poors' hold' are let at an annual rental of £9.

¹ Inq. a.q.d. 6 Hen. IV, no. 31.

² *Feud. Aids*, iv, 33.

³ Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), xx, 88.

⁴ Feet of F. Northants. Trin. 1654.

⁵ Ibid. Hil. 1651; *ibid.* Mich. 1655.

⁶ Baker, *Hist. of Northants*, i, 33.

⁷ *Hist. of Northants*, ii, 118. The length of nave and chancel was 95 ft. 7 in., the width across the aisle 23 ft. 4 in. The internal dimensions of the present building are: chancel, 24 ft. 6 in. by 14 ft. 10 in.; transepts, each 16 ft. 2 in. by 14 ft. 8 in.;

nave, 42 ft. 6 in. by 22 ft. 6 in.; tower, 11 ft. by 13 ft.

⁸ *P.C.H. Northants*, i, 408. See also Alb. Hartshorne, *Recumbent Mont. Effigies in Northants*, 68. The figure is that of a knight, probably a De Orlingbury.

⁹ The inscription is given by Bridges, *op. cit.* 119.

¹⁰ In Bridges' time the figure of the woman was missing. Originally the brasses were on a tomb 3 ft. high. The figures are 18 in. in length.

¹¹ The dates are hidden by pews.

¹² The inscriptions are given in North, *Ch. Bells of Northants*, 354. In Bridges' time there were three bells.

¹³ Markham, *Ch. Plate of Northants*, 219.

¹⁴ Chan. Inq. p.m. 20 Edw. III, no. 83; *ibid.* (Ser. 2), xv, 18; *ibid.* xx, 40.

¹⁵ Feet of F. Northants. East. 3 Eliz.

¹⁶ MS. Cott. Nero D. x.; *Valor Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), iv, 305.

A HISTORY OF NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

PYTCHLEY

Pihteslea (xi cent.); Pycseleg, Pyghesley (xiii cent.); Pistisle, Pytesley (xiv cent.); Piseley (xvii cent.).

Pytchley is on the road from Higham Ferrers to Kettering; and the village is situated where a branch of the road from Wellingborough, which traverses the parish on its eastern side, crosses the former in the north. It is about 3 miles south-west of Kettering, and 2½ miles distant from Isham Station on the L.M.S. Railway. The surface of the parish is undulating and well wooded, especially in the north, its height varying from about 200 to 400 ft.: it is watered by various streams flowing into the River Nene, the Ise brook dividing it from Isham on the east.

At the eastern end of the straggling village is the church of All Saints. Excavations carried on during restorations in 1845 disclosed a cemetery of primitive man under the church and churchyard, rough stone coffins, or kistvaens, and skeletons lying with faces to the east and feet to the south.¹ A little to the north of the church is the vicarage.²

At the other end of the village is the Manor House, now occupied by Colonel C. H. Heycock, a principal landowner in Pytchley. It is said to have been built by the Washbournes,³ and is probably the manor-house referred to by Lewis in 1849 as very dilapidated. Bridges wrote that the old manor-house of the Staffords, lately pulled down in his day by Mr. Washbourne, had adjoined the churchyard;⁴ but that an old manor-house, apparently that of the Engaynes, had stood in the cow-pasture south of the church, where wells, ponds, moats, and other survivals marked its position. Pytchley Hall, of famous hunting memory, built by Sir Euseby Isham in Queen Elizabeth's reign, also stood to the south of the church; but of this beautiful old H-shaped building of native ironstone no trace remains, and it is said that a road passes over its site.⁵ Before its demolition in 1829 a picture of the fine old mansion had been included in Baker's *History of Northamptonshire*. According to Bridges Sir Euseby's house was designed by the same architect as Holdenby House. The fine gateway was purchased by Lord Overstone and removed in 1843 to Overstone Park, where it can still be seen, and the porch has been rebuilt at Glendon Hall, near Rothwell. The story of the old house after the Pytchley Hunt came into existence in the middle of the 18th century, and it was turned into a club-house, has been told by Mr. H. O. Nethercote.⁶ The kennels are now at Brixworth. To the west of the Manor House is Pytchley House. Pytchley Grange lies by itself at the extreme south of the parish; other outlying properties are Pytchley Lodge, Spencer's Lodge, and Cox's Lodge.

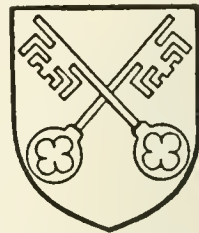
At the centre of the village is the school (public elementary), originally founded as a grammar school. Near by is one of the two Methodist chapels. A Working Men's Institute and Reading Room was established in 1887.

The parish has an area of 2,866 acres. Its soil is rich

arable ground and its subsoil clay. The chief crops grown are wheat, barley, beans, and roots. Lacemaking was formerly carried on, and shoemaking. There are quarries of building-stone in the north. The population in 1931 was 531.

Two properties in *PYTCHLEY* of 5 *MANORS* hides and 1 virgate and 1½ hides respectively were entered in Domesday Survey as held of the Abbey of Peterborough by Azo, with a note that the manor belonged to the monks' farm (i.e. was allotted for their sustenance), and that there was a demesne building. The two formed a manor which had fallen in value since Azo received it from £8 to 100s.⁷ In the Northampton Survey it was returned that the Abbot of Peterborough had 5½ hides in Pytchley, but that in the Rolls of Winchester (Domesday Survey) 6 hides and 3 small virgates had been held of him.⁸ The deficit of 1½ hides is accounted for by an increase of the same amount in the manor of the Engaynes (q.v.).⁹ In the reign of Richard I Pytchley, with its church and mill, was confirmed to the abbey by Pope Eugenius.¹⁰ Similar confirmations were made in 1227 by Henry III¹¹ and in 1332 by Edward III.¹² The abbey's property (then held by Ralph Basset) was assessed in 1284 at 5½ hides.¹³ This manor continued to be held of the abbey until the Dissolution, and the lordship and fee farm were in February 1544 granted to William, Lord Parr of Horton, in tail male.¹⁴

After being held in demesne by the abbey, Pytchley had for tenants members of the great judicial families of Ridel and Basset. Geoffrey Ridel, the justiciar, came to Abbot John in 1117 with other proved men to ask that the manor of Pytchley might be granted to him for life, and the abbot granted it to him for the farm of £4.¹⁵ After the death of the justiciar in the wreck of the *White Ship* in 1120, its next tenants were the descendants of his daughter and heiress Maud, who married Richard, son of Ralph Basset,¹⁶ her son Geoffrey taking the name of his mother and her son Ralph that of his father. Geoffrey Ridel's son Richard, however, assumed the name of Basset, and in 1201 and 1203 appears in a suit instituted against him by Abbot William in connexion with 6 carucates of land in Pytchley which he claimed to hold of the church of Peterborough and which that church claimed to hold in demesne.¹⁷ Richard Basset was holding at his death a messuage in Pytchley and 6 virgates of land and paid for the said manor 10 marks yearly.¹⁸ His son and heir Ralph made an agreement in 1218 with Abbot Robert, recognizing that Pytchley was the right of the church of Peterborough, and the abbot confirmed this land to Ralph and his heirs, to hold at fee farm, saving the advowson of the church, for 10 marks.¹⁹ In 1218 Ralph Basset



PETERBOROUGH ABBEY.
Gules the crossed keys of
St. Peter or.

¹ *V.C.H. Northants.* i, 143; *Arch. J.* iii, 105.

² This is said to have been a public house called the 'Queen's Head' until about 1790: *ex inf.* the vicar.

³ Lewis, *Topog. Dict.*

⁴ *Hist. of Northants.* ii, 121.

⁵ *N. & Q. Northants.* 1886-7, p. 9.

⁶ *The Pytchley Hunt*, 1888.

⁷ *V.C.H. Northants.* i, 316.

⁸ *Ibid.* 383.

⁹ *Ibid.*

¹⁰ Dugdale, *Mon. Angl.* i, 390.

¹¹ *Cal. Chart. R.* 1226-57, p. 21.

¹² *Ibid.* 1327-41, p. 275.

¹³ *Feud. Aids*, iv, 1.

¹⁴ *L. & P. Hen. VIII*, xix, (1), 141 (75).

¹⁵ Reg. Robt. de Swaffham, fols. xli, cxiii.

¹⁶ Sloane Ch. xxxi, 4, 26.

¹⁷ *Cur. Reg. R.* ii, 52, 261.

¹⁸ Book of Deeds belonging to Ishams of Lamport (records relating to the Griffin family).

¹⁹ Reg. Robt. de Swaffham, at fol. ccvii.

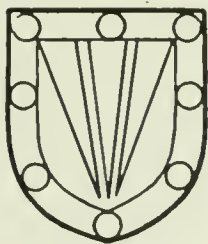
made a grant to John de Chanceux and his wife Margaret of land and of the mill in Pytchley,¹ the mending of the mill-pond being in 1240 the subject of another agreement between him and the abbey;² and in May 1237 Ralph was engaged in a suit against the Prior of Launds, John de Chanceux, and Ralph Taylehaste concerning customs and services which he demanded of them for his free tenement in Weldon and Pytchley.³ This Ralph, who was seated at Weldon, was succeeded by his son, another Ralph, who had livery of his father's lands in 1257-8,⁴ and whose son Richard Basset claimed view of frankpledge in Pytchley in 1275,⁵ and died in 1276, seised of this manor.⁶ His son Ralph in 1284 was holding 5½ hides in Pytchley of the Abbot of Peterborough.⁷ In 1284 Ralph Basset of Weldon received a quit claim from Hugh Ridel, lord of Wittering, for any right the said Hugh might have in the manors of Weldon, Weston, and Pytchley by descent from Richard Basset and Geoffrey Ridel his son and heir, or from Hugh Ridel and Richard his son and heir.⁸ Pytchley then followed the descent of Weldon (q.v.)⁹ until 1408, when, on the death of Richard Basset, the property was divided between his cousins, Weldon passing to John Knyvet and Pytchley to Sir Thomas Aylesbury, who died in 1418 seised of a manor of Pytchley, composed of the manor of Pytchley called Engaynes (q.v.) and of this manor, then called *BASSETS* and later on known as *STAFFORDS*.¹⁰ Bassets, held by him of the abbey of Peterborough, had been granted by him in 1416-17 to Sir Thomas Chaworth, the husband of his daughter Isabel,¹¹ but was assigned for life to his widow Katharine.¹² Katharine, who had inherited the Engayne manor as the daughter of Lawrence de Pabenharn, died on 17 July 1436, leaving as her heir her son Laurence Cheyne, aged 40.¹³ In 1459 Sir Thomas Chaworth died seised of a moiety of this manor, held by him of the Abbot of Peterborough for life, after the death of his wife Isabel, as of the inheritance of William Chaworth, her son and heir.¹⁴

The other moiety of the manor appears to have remained in the hands of Sir Thomas Aylesbury's other daughter and co-heir Eleanor, who married Humphrey Stafford. The attainder and execution of Humphrey Stafford was followed by the grant on 6 October 1487 of the manor of Bassets to Sir John Guldeford.¹⁵ This manor, apparently including the Chaworth moiety, subsequently passed to Robert Isham, of whose manor

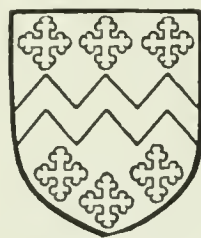
of Staffords his brother Giles held property in Pytchley in 1559,¹⁶ and descended with the manor of Engaynes.

The manor of *ENGAYNES*, *DENGAYNES*, or *GEYNES*, though originally so much smaller in size, has an interest of its own that Bassets cannot rival, by reason of its connexion with the hunt that has made Pytchley famous the world over. This connexion has already been dealt with in two previous volumes, an account of the Engaynes, and of the Pytchley and Laxton tenure, or wolf-hound serjeanty,¹⁷ being given in the articles on the 'Domesday Survey'¹⁸ and on 'Sport', while in the latter article there is also given the history of the hunt which in later days had its head-quarters there.¹⁹

The first tenant recorded is the Saxon Alwin the huntsman, who held 2 hides in Pytchley under Edward the Confessor. He had been succeeded by William Engayne, who held 2 hides in Pytchley of the king. When the Northampton Survey was taken, 3 hides 1 virgate were held by Richard Engayne,²⁰ the Peterborough manor being diminished by an equivalent amount, and that it was from the Peterborough manor it was taken is clear from the fact that Engaynes was held eventually partly of the king by great serjeanty, and partly of the abbey of Peterborough. In 1210-12 Richard Engayne was holding Pytchley and Laxton by service of hunting the wolf.²¹ This was the portion of the Engayne manor which was held of the king in chief; the other portion of it was confirmed to the abbey of Peterborough in 1227²² and 1332,²³ as the fee of one knight in Pytchley, Thorpe, and Hargrave. Vital Engayne, brother of Richard, died in 1249, when he was returned as holding lands in Laxton and Pytchley by serjeanty of hunting the wolf at the king's command in 3½ counties. He was succeeded by his son Henry,²⁴ who at his death in 1271 held his lands in Laxton of the king in chief by the said serjeanty, and his lands in Pytchley, worth £10, by similar service.²⁵ John Engayne succeeded his brother Henry at Pytchley, where he claimed view of frankpledge, &c., in 1275,²⁶ and was returned as holding 20 librates of land in chief by the above serjeanty in 1284.²⁷ In the same year Millicent de Monhaut complained that he and others had entered her park at Harringworth, cut her trees, stretched nets and caught a tame cat (*catum domesticum*). John replied that his serjeanty entitled him to chase vermin in the parks both of the king and of other



BASSET, of Weldon. Or three piles gules in a border sable bezanty.



ENGAYNE. Gules crusily and a fesse dancetty or.

¹ Sloane Ch. xxxi, 4, 43; Feet of F. Northants, case 172, file 21, no. 194.

² Reg. Robt. Swaffham, fol. 207v.

³ Close R. 1234-7, p. 534. John de Chanceux died seised of 1 virgate in Pytchley held of the fee of Ralph Basset of Weldon in 1249: Chan. Inq. p.m. 33 Hen. III, no. 77. Taylehastes, viz. William, Sara daughter of William, John, and Robert, were dealing with messuages or lands in Pytchley in 1202-3, in 1219, and in 1232: Feet of F. Northants. 4 John, no. 105; *ibid.* 3 Hen. III, no. 43; *ibid.* 16 Hen. III, no. 288.

⁴ Dugdale, *Bar. of Engl.* i, 378.

⁵ *Hund. R.* (Rec. Com.), ii, 12.

⁶ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* ii, no. 192.

⁷ *Feud. Aids*, iv, 1.

⁸ De Banco R. no. 60, Mich. 13 Edw. I, m. 97. Lands in Pytchley passed from the Bassets of Drayton to the Draytons: e.g. Alan Basset gave to Walter de Drayton and Lucy his wife, 'daughter of Richard Basset my brother', and their heirs, all his lands and tenements in Pytchley: Book of Deeds belonging to Ishams of Lampport, p. 15.

⁹ *Cal. Pat.* 1281-92, p. 498; *Feud. Aids*, iv, 22; *Plac. de Quo Warr.* (Rec. Com.), 531; Chan. Inq. p.m. 8 Ric. II, no. 9.

¹⁰ Chan. Inq. p.m. 6 Hen. V, no. 35.

¹¹ *Ibid.*

¹² Add. Ch. 22388.

¹³ Chan. Inq. p.m. 15 Hen. VI, no. 50.

¹⁴ *Ibid.* 37 Hen. VI, no. 25.

¹⁵ *Cal. Pat.* 1485-94, p. 151; *ibid.* 257.

¹⁶ Bridges, *Hist. of Northants.* ii, 124.

¹⁷ For a discussion of this, see also Round, *King's Serjeants*, 293-8.

¹⁸ *P.C.H. Northants.* i, 294; ii, 368-9.

¹⁹ *Ibid.* 356-68. The Pytchley Hounds.

²⁰ *Ibid.* i, 383.

²¹ *Red Bk. of Exch.* (Rolls Ser.), ii, 533. The name is written 'Witteslega', obviously a misreading of W for P.

²² *Cal. Chart. R.* 1226-57, p. 19.

²³ *Ibid.* 1327-41, p. 275. Cf. *Hen. of Pytcheley's Bk. of Fees* (Northants. Rec. Soc.), 130-2.

²⁴ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* i, no. 166.

²⁵ *Ibid.* no. 809.

²⁶ *Rot. Hund.* (Rec. Com.), ii, 12.

²⁷ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* iii, no. 418.

A HISTORY OF NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

persons, and that he had only cut hazels and rods with which to stretch the nets. He admitted taking a cat, but did not comment on its alleged tameness.¹ John died in 1296 seised of Pytchley, consisting of a chief messuage, 120 acres of arable land, 3 acres of meadow, a water-mill,² and £10 yearly rents of bondmen, held of the king by serjeanty of hunting the wolf, the fox, and the badger; and 33s. yearly rents of villeins, held of the Abbot of Peterborough by service of $\frac{1}{2}$ of a knight's fee.³ His son John Engayne settled lands on his wife Ellen, and died in 1322, holding Pytchley by grand serjeanty of finding coursing dogs for destroying wolves, foxes, cats, and other vermin, as well within parks as without, in the counties of Northampton, Rutland, Oxford, Essex, Huntingdon, and Buckingham, with 33s. 6d. and 1 lb. of pepper rent held of Peterborough by knight service.⁴ Ellen died in 1339,⁵ when her third of the manor was delivered to John, the son of her husband's brother Nicholas.⁶ This Sir John Dengayne of Dillington (Hunts.) died in February 1358, seized of 14 virgates in Pytchley held of the king as parcel of the serjeanty of Laxton, with 10 virgates there held by free tenants of the Abbot of Peterborough for one-fourth of a knight's fee, and rendering for each virgate 2s. 4d. for ward of Rockingham Castle; Sir John, it was said, had received nothing therefrom except two attendances yearly from each tenant at his court at Pytchley, the profits of which were worth nothing.⁷ When his son Sir Thomas died s.p. in 1367 the lands passed to his three sisters and co-heirs: Joyce, the wife of John de Goldington; Elizabeth wife of Sir Lawrence de Pabenharn; and Mary wife of William de Bernak.⁸ In 1368 John de Goldington and his wife Joyce transferred their third to William Bernak and his wife Mary.⁹ In 1377 a conveyance of Laxton, Pytchley, and other manors was made to John de Goldington and his wife Joyce by the other two sisters and their husbands,¹⁰ and a second conveyance finally left this manor of Pytchley, then held in dower by Katharine, widow of Sir Thomas Engayne, the property of Elizabeth and Lawrence de Pabenharn.¹¹ Elizabeth predeceased her husband, and at his death in 1399 their heir was their daughter Katharine, aged 27.¹² Katharine married first Sir William Cheyne of Fen Ditton (Cambs.),¹³ and secondly Sir Thomas Aylesbury, in whose hands the two Pytchley manors are consequently found at his death in September 1418.¹⁴ The manor of Engaynes then consisted of three parcels, one being held by the hunting serjeanty, another of the Abbot of Peterborough, and the remainder of John Knyvet as of his manor of Weldon.¹⁵ On the death of Katharine Aylesbury, in 1436, her son Lawrence Cheyne inherited the manor,¹⁶ and in 1449 settled it on himself and his wife Elizabeth, with remainder to their son

John.¹⁷ Sir Thomas Cheyne, son of the last-named Sir John, in 1503 granted the manor of Pytchley to Ralph Lane and Katharine his wife, kinswoman of the said Sir Thomas Cheyne, for life, with remainder for life to John Dockwra, son of the said Katherine.¹⁸ In 1511, when a marriage was proposed between Elizabeth, the daughter and heir of this Sir Thomas Cheyne (of Irlingborough), and Thomas Vaux, son and heir apparent of Sir Nicholas Vaux, the reversion of the manor was settled in tail on Elizabeth.¹⁹ Sir Thomas Cheyne died seised of the manor on 13 January 1514, his daughter being then 9 years old. Her subsequent marriage with Sir Thomas Vaux conveyed Pytchley to the Vaux of Harrowden (q.v.), who did not long hold it however. Sir Thomas Vaux, Lord Harrowden, with William Vaux his son and heir, sold the manor of Pytchley called Geynes in 1555 to Gregory Isham, citizen and merchant of London.²⁰

The descent of the Ishams of Pytchley has already been dealt with in the genealogical volume for Northamptonshire.²¹ Henry de Isham of Northampton, to whom a debt of £200 was owing in 1325,²² may have been identical with the Henry de Isham who in 1309²³ was bailiff of Richard son of Roger son of Henry in the case of a free tenement in Pytchley claimed by Richard against his brothers Roger and John and his sisters Beatrice, Emma, and Joan.²⁴ It seems probable that he was the Henry de Isham the lands of whose widow Agnes at Pytchley were in 1349 the scene of a conflict between the bailiff of the sheriff and Henry Dengayne and others.²⁵ Henry's great-grandson Robert settled lands in Pytchley on his son William Isham,²⁶ who was succeeded by his son Thomas. Thomas Isham married Ellen, daughter of Richard Vere and granddaughter of John Green of Drayton, and was the father of that Euseby Isham of Pytchley who, with his wife Anne, daughter of Giles Pulton of Desborough,²⁷ brought up on his farm at Ringstead the family of twenty children of whom Gregory, the purchaser of Engaynes, was no unworthy member. How Gregory, the third of the brothers, had been sent up to London by his father to be apprenticed, and there accumulated the fortune which enabled him to return to his own county and purchase Engaynes and the Earl of Rutland's manors in Braunston before his death in 1558; and how Giles, the eldest, associated with Gregory in the fine of 1555 conveying Engaynes to him, had been sent to London to study the law, and returning on the death of Euseby to succeed him at Pytchley, was also in the commission of the peace, and died in 1559, is recorded in the family archives preserved by the descendants of their brother John at Lamport (q.v.); which tell, too, how Robert, the second of the brothers, was chaplain to Queen Mary, at whose death he resigned his stall at Peter-

¹ Assize R. 619, m. 34.

² A mill is mentioned in 1194: Pipe R. 6 Ric. I, m. 2 d.

³ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* iii, 418.

⁴ *Ibid.* vi, no. 427, p. 253.

⁵ *Ibid.* viii, no. 219.

⁶ *Cal. Close*, 1339-41, p. 183.

⁷ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* x, no. 433, p. 343.

⁸ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 41 Edw. III, no. 25; Add. Ch. 33137.

⁹ *Cal. Pat.* 1367-70, p. 162; Feet of F. Northants. 42 Edw. III, file 84, no. 606.

¹⁰ Feet of F. Div. Co. East. 50 Edw. III, no. 142.

¹¹ *Ibid.*

¹² *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 22 Ric. II, no. 37.

¹³ Baker, *Hist. of Northants.* i, 714.

¹⁴ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 6 Hen. V, no. 35.

¹⁵ *Ibid.* John Knyvet, returned with John Aylesbury as heir of Ralph Basset of Weldon, held Weldon in chief at his death on 4 Dec. 1418, and was succeeded by his son John: *ibid.* 6 Hen. V, no. 32.

¹⁶ *Ibid.* 15 Hen. VI, n. 150.

¹⁷ *Cal. Pat.* 1446-52, p. 259; Add. Ch. 7569.

¹⁸ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), xxix, 3; *Cal. Pat.* 1494-1509, p. 403.

¹⁹ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), xxix, 3; *Coll. Topog. et Gen. v.* 88. Abstract of will of Sir Thomas Cheyne.

²⁰ *Com. Pleas, Deeds Enr. Trin.* 1 Mary; *Recov. R. Hil.* 1555, ro. 354; Feet of F. Northants. East. 2 & 3 Ph. and M.

²¹ *Op. cit.* i, 141, &c.

²² *Cal. Close*, 1323-7, p. 524.

²³ *Assize R.* 1343, m. 29.

²⁴ A family of Henrys in Pytchley may have descended from one of the many Henrys of Isham. Cf. Philip Henry of Pytchley in 1387: *Cal. Pat.* 1385-9, p. 357; and Thomas Henry in 1394: *ibid.* 1391-6, p. 389.

²⁵ *Ibid.* 1348-50, p. 455.

²⁶ *Exch. Inq. p.m.* dclxxvi, 6.

²⁷ *Visit. of Northants.* ed. by Walter Metcalfe.



PYTCHLEY HALL
(From a drawing in the British Museum, c. 1820)



PYTCHLEY CHURCH, FROM THE SOUTH-WEST
(From a drawing by G. Clarke, c. 1820)

borough, and died in 1564 parson of Pytchley, his heirs being the three daughters of his brother Giles. Giles, who was M.P. for Peterborough in 1553-4 and 1557-8, was buried at Pytchley. He was returned as seised of a manor in Pytchley called *ISHAMS*¹ held of Robert Isham, clerk, as of his manor of Staffords, which latter manor also passed next into the hands of their brother Gregory's son Euseby Isham of Braunston. Euseby early in 1580 was dealing by fine with a third of the manors of Geynes and Ishams in Pytchley;² and in 1587 by recovery with the manors of Pytchley and Bassets;³ and in 1606 he was, in conjunction with his son and heir John, dealing with the manors of Pytchley and Braunston⁴ as Sir Euseby Isham, having been knighted by King James on 11 May 1603. He built the famous old house at Pytchley whose mullioned windows and pinnaced gables were the background of many a hunt picture, and inclosed 140 acres at Pytchley.⁵ He died at Pytchley on 11 June 1626, being survived less than six months by his son John, on whom he, with his wife Ann, had settled his manors of Staffords and Engaynes in tail male on 8 May 1603.⁶ John Isham, who had already in 1623 levied a fine of the manor of Pytchley with Thomas Isham,⁷ his brother, the executor of his will, had married in 1604 Anne daughter of Sir William Fitzwilliam of Milton, who survived her husband at his death on 11 December 1626.⁸ The heir of John was his daughter Ann, aged 21, the wife of William Lane of Glendon, but the manor being settled in tail male passed to her uncle Thomas Isham, who in 1632 sold to Francis Downes, Roger Downes, of Wortley, Lancashire, and Francis Downes his two manors of Pytchley.⁹ On 21 August 1639 Francis Downes settled his recently purchased manors on his wife Alice and his son Francis, and died on 31 July 1640, his son Francis being then aged 13.¹⁰ Roger Downes suffered a recovery of the manor in 1672, with two water-mills, &c.,¹¹ but in 1690 the manor of Pytchley, with one water-mill, one windmill, &c., was being dealt with by William Washbourne,¹² to whom it had probably passed from the Downes. William Washbourne died in 1702 and was buried at Pytchley,¹³ where he was succeeded by his son William, who was dealing with the manor, one water-mill, &c., in 1712¹⁴ and 1720.¹⁵ A manor of Pytchley, presumably this manor, was next held by the Knightleys with Fawsley (q.v.) in 1764¹⁶ and 1802,¹⁷ by Lucy Knightley, esq., and Charles Knightley respectively. Before 1819 it had again changed hands, and in that year was held by George Wharton Marriott and Selina Anne his wife, who conveyed it to John Swarbrock Gregory.¹⁸



WASHBOURNE. *Argent a fesse between six martlets gules with three cinquefoils argent on the fesse.*

This was possibly a preliminary of its transfer to George Payne (of Sulby), who was dealing with it in 1825.¹⁹ The old hall built by Euseby Isham was pulled down in 1829 by George Payne, who afterwards sold the manor and estate to Mr. Jones Loyd.²⁰ Mr. Loyd was succeeded in the manor by his son Samuel, who was created Baron Overstone in 1854 and died in 1883, when his property descended to his only surviving daughter Harriet and her husband Robert James Loyd Lindsay, created Lord Wantage of Lockinge in 1885.

Another 3 virgates in Pytchley which Edwin had held freely in the time of King Edward was entered in the Domesday Survey as held by Fulcher (Malesoures) of the Count of Mortain.²¹ This appears in the Northampton Survey as $\frac{1}{2}$ hide in Pytchley held by William FitzGery of the fee of Mortain.²² This may possibly be the property from which William Trussel early in the reign of Henry III confirmed a grant of 2 marks rent in Pytchley to the chaplains celebrating in the chapel of the Blessed Mary at Marston for the souls of Richard Trussel his father and Maud his wife made by Lady Isabel Trussel his mother,²³ and may be represented by the 4 virgates in Pytchley which William Trussel was holding in 1284, but of whom he held them no mention was made.²⁴

A 'manor' in Pytchley was referred to as held by John Clysby and his wife Eleanor in 1385, when houses and closes there were broken into by evil-doers.²⁵

The church of *ALL SAINTS* consists *CHURCH* of chancel, 39 ft. by 19 ft. 4 in.; clerestoried nave, 53 ft. by 20 ft.; north and south aisles, south porch, and west tower, 12 ft. by 11 ft. 6 in., all these measurements being internal. The width of the south aisle is 12 ft., but the north aisle is 20 ft. wide and has a recess or shallow transept in the north wall, 13 ft. by 7 ft. 6 in. deep, now used as a vestry.

No part of the existing fabric is older than the latter half of the 12th century. To this period the two western arches and western pier of the north aisle belong, indicating a Norman church with at least one aisle, the extent of which can only be conjectured. In the 13th century the church was almost entirely rebuilt, the nave being extended eastward, a south aisle added, and a new chancel erected. The south nave arcade dates from c. 1230-40, but the eastern portion of the north arcade is some fifty years later (c. 1280), the work having apparently been completed on the north side only after the chancel was finished. In the 14th century the chancel was rebuilt on its present lines, and new windows inserted in the south aisle; the north aisle may have been widened about the same time. The tower dates from about 1200, but was heightened about 1427;²⁶ the porch is of the 15th century.

The restoration of 1843 included the rebuilding of the chancel arch and the east wall of the north aisle; the chancel was restored in 1861, and the north aisle

¹ This so-called manor seems to have had a very brief existence.

² Feet of F. Northants. East. 22 Eliz.

³ Recov. R. Mich. 29 Eliz. ro. 137.

⁴ Feet of F. Northants. Mich. 3 Jas. I.

⁵ Pat. R. 17 Jas. pt. 9. Inclosures at Pytchley had already led to disorders in 1607. *N. & Q. Northants.* 1884-5, p. 74.

⁶ Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), ccccxxxv, 117.

⁷ Feet of F. Northants. Trin. 21 Jas. I.

⁸ Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), ccccxxxv, 117.

⁹ Ibid. ccccxciv, 16; Feet of F. North-

ants. Hil. 7 Chas. I; *ibid.* East. 8 Chas. I. Francis Downes of Pytchley was before the High Commission Court in 1634: *Cal. S.P. Dom.* 1634-5, p. 206.

¹⁰ Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), ccccxciv, 16.

¹¹ Recov. R. Mich. 24 Chas. II, ro. 53.

¹² *Ibid.* East. 2 Wm. and Mary, ro. 210.

¹³ Bridges, *Hist. of Northants.* ii, 125. (Church inscription.)

¹⁴ Recov. R. East. 11 Anne, ro. 174.

¹⁵ *Ibid.* Hil. 7 Geo. I, ro. 163.

¹⁶ *Ibid.* Hil. 4 Geo. III, ro. 157.

¹⁷ *Ibid.* Trin. 42 Geo. III, ro. 146.

¹⁸ Feet of F. Northants. Mich. 59 & 60 Geo. III.

¹⁹ Recov. R. Trin. 6 Geo. IV, ro. 149.

²⁰ H. O. Nethercote, *The Pytchley Hunt*, 4, &c.

²¹ *V.C.H. Northants.* i, 327.

²² *Ibid.* 383.

²³ Harl. Chart. 57 A. 53.

²⁴ *Feud. Aids*, iv, 1.

²⁵ *Cal. Pat.* 1385-9, pp. 90, 226.

²⁶ The Rev. A. Brown's MS. Notes.

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reroofed in 1903.¹ When the east wall of the aisle was rebuilt it was found that the 15th-century window (since restored) had replaced two others, one of 14th-century date, and one still earlier consisting of two lancets. Part of a 13th-century piscina,² then found, is now built into the wall at its north end.

The chancel is faced with ashlar and has rectangular corner buttresses and a moulded string at sill level inside and out. The roof is modern and covered with grey slates, and is higher than the low-pitched roof of the nave; on the south side an original corbel table with small heads within a hollow moulding carries the gutter. The east window is of five trefoiled lights with geometrical tracery in the head, and in the south wall are two three-light windows and one of two lights near the west end, all with Decorated tracery, moulded jambs, and labels; there are two windows of similar type in the north wall. The mullions and tracery in all the windows are modern. The piscina and sedilia form a single composition of four trefoiled ogee arches below the easternmost window, within a square hood-mould formed by the lifting of the string; the seats are stepped. At the restoration a flat slab was substituted for the bowl of the piscina, but otherwise the work is substantially original. The priest's doorway has continuous moulded jambs and head, and below the westernmost window is a rectangular low-side opening, now blocked, widely splayed within.³ There was formerly a sacristy on the north side of the chancel, the blocked doorway to which remains. The chancel arch as rebuilt is of two chamfered orders, the inner on half-round responds with carved capitals and bases. The chancel screen was destroyed in 1843; the present screen was erected in 1916. The rood-loft was entered from the north end by a still-existing doorway, the sill of which is level with the spring of the chancel arch. In the chancel the walls are plastered, but elsewhere the internal wall surfaces have been stripped.

The nave is of four bays and has a modern roof, but the position of the principals of the ancient roof before the erection of the clerestory early in the 15th century may be seen on the north side. The two 12th-century semicircular western arches of the north arcade are of two square orders with hood-mould, springing from a half-round respond and cylindrical pier, each with sculptured capital and square abacus. The pier was taken down and rebuilt in 1843, but only its base is new. The capital has a well-developed leaf pattern issuing from the mouths of human heads at two of the angles. The west arch retains considerable traces of colour decoration on the inner order. The second arch is supported on its east side by one of the late-13th-century piers, which consist of four half-round shafts with moulded bases and carry pointed arches of two chamfered orders;⁴ the east respond is a half-octagon. The westernmost pier and the respond have moulded capitals, but that of the other pier is carved with naturalistic oak leaves and acorns in an upright position. The piers of the earlier south arcade consist also of four half-rounds, but the capitals of the two westernmost and those of the responds, which follow the same sec-

tion, are carved with stiff-leaf foliage; the easternmost pier has a moulded capital.

The 13th-century south doorway has a pointed arch of two orders, the inner with continuous chamfer and the outer moulded, on nook-shafts with foliated capitals and moulded bases; the oak door is ancient with shaped iron hinges. West of the doorway is a contemporary window of two lancet lights, and at the east end of the aisle a two-light window with forked mullion. The three-light ogee-headed windows in the south wall east of the porch are 14th-century insertions. The west windows of both aisles have modern Perpendicular tracery.

The tower is of rubble and of four stages, the three lower constituting the original structure. The windows of the former bell-chamber in the third stage are now blocked, and exhibit no architectural detail, but consist of three round-headed lights on each side. The west doorway is a 15th-century insertion, but above it is a two-light window with forked mullion; a single clasping ashlar buttress at the south-west angle seems to be a comparatively modern addition. The lower stage north and south is blank, but in the second is a single lancet without label; the later top story has a battlemented parapet with angle pinnacles and gargoyles in the middle of each face. The double bell-chamber windows are of two trefoiled lights with quatrefoil in the head and transom at mid-height, and the tower arch is of two chamfered orders with hood-mould. There is no vice. Since 1840 the tower has been strengthened by iron clamps, two to each of the three lower stages.

The clerestory is pierced on the south side by five four-centred windows of two cinquefoiled lights and has a plain parapet; the four modern windows on the north side are small quatrefoils. The pointed north doorway is of two chamfered orders on moulded imposts, and the transeptal vestry has a broad flat gable to the north. It is open to the aisle by an arch of two chamfered orders springing from keel-shaped responds of 13th-century date with moulded capitals and bases, and its walling also appears to be ancient, but it probably represents a later rebuilding with old materials.

The font has a circular basin of unusual form and has been called Norman. It was dug up in the churchyard and restored to the church in 1838, being placed on a modern pedestal.

There is a good Jacobean oak pulpit, and other fittings of the same period include two chairs in the chancel (one with long panelled back and claw feet), a solid panelled screen filling the vestry arch, and a churchwardens' pew. A former oak communion table (1704) is now at the west end of the church; there is also a dug-out oak chest in the south aisle.

When the chancel screen was destroyed an elaborate tympanum of spars and plaster was pulled down and re-erected above the tower arch. It consists of a large oblong panel dated 1661, with the royal arms in the middle, flanked by the badge of the Prince of Wales and an emblem of roses and thistles.⁵ The lower part of the chancel screen was used to make a reading-desk.⁶

In the chancel are a number of inserted floor-slabs

¹ The north clerestory windows date from this time. The roof is a lean-to of 20 ft. span with spaces cut out for the clerestory windows. The lead on the old roof was dated 1637.

² This has been called a 'Norman' piscina, but the recess as rebuilt is composite; it has a trefoiled head and one of

its jambs has a plain chamfer; the other consists of three small shafts and is a 13th-century fragment.

³ *Assoc. Arch. Soc. Reports*, xxix, 441. It has hollow-chamfered edges, and is closed by a single stone. A four-centred arch was built across the opening inside when the chancel was restored (1861).

⁴ The outer order of the second arch from the east has a hollow moulding.

⁵ It has also the motto 'Fear God, Honour the King' and the names of the churchwardens. The tympanum was a repainted pre-Reformation structure: Harvey and Cox, *Eng. Ch. Furniture*, 89.

⁶ *Ibid.* 128.

to members of the Washbourne family, ranging from 1685 to 1782.¹

There are five bells, the treble a re-casting in 1913 by Gillett and Johnston of Croydon, the second by Hugh Watts of Leicester 1621, the third, undated, by Robert Newcombe of Leicester, and the fourth and tenor by Hugh Watts 1622.²

The plate consists of a silver cup and cover paten of 1570 and a flagon of 1877.³

The registers before 1812 are as follows: (i) baptisms 1717-44, marriages 1697-1744, burials 1695-1744; (ii) baptisms and burials 1745-1812, marriages 1745-60; (iii) marriages 1754-1812.

The church was valued in 1291 at *ADIVOWSON* £20,⁴ and in 1535 the profits of the rectory were returned as £30 18s. 4d., and the pension paid to the Abbot of Peterborough as 6s. 8d.⁵ The rectors were presented by the abbey of Peterborough.⁶ In 1547 Edward VI granted the advowson of the rectory and church to the Bishops of Coventry and Lichfield,⁷ who retained it till the close of the 19th century, when it was transferred to the Bishopric of Peterborough.⁸

The last rector appointed, according to Bridges, was Robert Isham (presented by Dame Mary Parr), after whose death in 1564 incumbents were presented, according to this authority, to the vicarage.⁹ But the Institution Books at the Public Record Office describe Pytchley as a rectory until the Commonwealth, and it is after the Restoration it appears as a vicarage.

A lease for 60 years of the rectory made by the Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield on 23 July 1555, during the incumbency of 'one Isham', was the subject of Chancery proceedings instituted by Lewis Montgomerie of Gray's Inn against Edmund Twynhoe.¹⁰ The residue of this term was in 1582 granted to Francis Nicholls of Hardwick.¹¹

The Parsonage House, with closes belonging to the rectory called the Pound Ground, and Scott Mill Close, with common of pasture and the tithes of the said rectory, which had been leased in 1634 by the Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield to William Lane for the lives of William Lane, second son of the said Wil-

liam, and of Katharine and Maud his daughters at a yearly rent of £17 18s. to the bishop and £30 to the vicar thereby reserved, were sold in 1654 by the trustees for selling lands of bishoprics to John Gifford of London, merchant.¹²

In 1292 John atte Wylewes of Finedon and Ralph Gerrerde of Pytchley received licence to grant a messuage and land in Pytchley to Henry de Nassington, chaplain celebrating in the church of Pytchley, and his successors.¹³ A reference occurs in 1439 to the cottage in Pytchley called the 'Presthous', the garden belonging to it, and the adjoining vacant plot called 'le armerye', enjoyed from time immemorial by the parson of the church.¹⁴

Edward Hunt's Charity is described *CHARITIES* under the parish of Warkton. About £4 10s. yearly is distributed in money at Christmas.

Church allotments. An allotment of 15 a. 2 r. 19 p. was set out on the inclosure in this parish in lieu of lands formerly appropriated to the repairs of the church. The land is let for about £25, which is applied by the vicar and churchwardens to church expenses.

Miss Rosanna Panther by her will proved 15 January 1908 gave £50 to the churchwardens upon trust to apply the interest in the maintenance and repair of the parish church. The endowment produces £1 16s. 10d. yearly in dividends.

In 1920, 33 acres of land were purchased by the Allotment Association to be used for allotments.

The public elementary school, built in 1770 and enlarged in 1870 and 1890, was endowed under the will of William Aylworth (died 10 August 1661), which devised for its benefit £20 yearly from his manor of Gumley in Leicestershire, and a messuage in Pytchley used partly for the school, partly for master's residence, with garden, orchard, and school close. This property and annuity were secured to the school by deed of 26 January 1826, when it was stated that the original deeds conveying them could not be found.¹⁵

A Provident Association, or Benefit Society, was established in 1836 for Pytchley, Isham, and Broughton.

SCALDWELL

Scaldeswelle (xi cent.); Esaldewell, Schaldewelle, Scardewelle, Scaudeswell (xiii cent.).

Scaldwell lies to the east of the road from Northampton to Market Harborough, a branch of which road runs through the parish and is crossed by another road running from south-west to north.

It lies mostly at a height of about 300 to 400 ft., and the picturesque village is situated near the junction of the roads which intersect the parish. This is grouped round a village green, and has at its centre a well, dated 1685 but rebuilt in 1874, kept in repair under a bequest dating from Elizabethan times. The church stands high

at the north-western end of the village, the smithy and school being across the road on the opposite side of the green. There is a Congregational chapel built in 1868. There are brickworks to the north of the village. The rectory¹⁶ lies away from the church at the southern end of the village.

A windmill had stood in the parish from the 13th century, probably in 'the Mill field' in the north-east of the parish. The picturesque ruins of another windmill stood until 1916 near where the road which branches east from the Northampton road enters the parish. Scaldwell Lodge stands alone at the northern end

¹ Five of these inscriptions are given in Bridges's *Hist. of Northants.* ii, 125.

² North, *Ch. Bells of Northants.* 387, where the inscriptions are given. All the bells were rehung in 1913. The old treble was by Hugh Watts. North gives its date as 1618, but on the re-cast bell it is 1628.

³ Markham, *Ch. Plate of Northants.* 246.

⁴ *Tax. Eccl. (Rec. Com.)*, 39.

⁵ *Valer Eccl. (Rec. Com.)*, iv, 304.

⁶ Reg. Swaffham, fol. lxxviii; *Rot. Rob.*

Grosseteste (Cant. and York Soc.), 200; *Cal. Pat.* 1361-4, p. 57, &c.

⁷ *Pat. R.* 1 Edw. VI, pt. 1.

⁸ *Inst. Bks. (P.R.O.)*.

⁹ *Hist. of Northants.* ii, 124. Bridges speaks of this presentation being made in 1548 by Lady Parr (in whose hands the fee farm was), but the advowson had already been given to the Bishopric of Coventry and Lichfield.

¹⁰ *Chan. Proc. (Ser. 2)*, cxxvii, 29.

¹¹ *Pat. R.* 24 Eliz. pt. 7.

¹² *Close R.* 1654, pt. 23, m. 17; cf. *Chan. Proc. (Ser. 2)*, cccxxxix, 65.

¹³ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 20 Edw. I, no. 110.

¹⁴ *Cal. Pat.* 1426-41, p. 241.

¹⁵ *Char. Comm. Rept.* 1830, xxiv, 169; see also *Coll. Topog. et Gen.* iii, ch. 32, p. 330.

¹⁶ Over the doorway is the date 1716 and the initials of T. Douglas Scott, then patron.

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of the parish and has Scaldwell Spinney to the west of it, and to the south-east Oak Spinney. In the south of the parish is Rectory Farm. There is an old quarry in the south-west, and in 1914 several ironstone pits were opened and are now worked by the Lamport Ironstone Company. In parts of these workings Roman pottery and other objects have been found.¹

The population was 276 in 1801, and 368 in 1871; in 1931 it was 286. The area is 1,247 acres; the soil, clay and red marl; subsoil, stone. The chief crops are wheat and barley, and some land is in pasture.

Among the lands of the Countess Judith *MANOR* in Mawsley Hundred, 2 hides and 1 virgate in *SCALDWELL* were held in 1086 by Hugh.² By the 12th century this had passed with the rest of the Countess Judith's lands to King David of Scotland, and had increased in extent to 2½ hides and 1 virgate.³

Among the fees of the honor of Huntingdon in 1235 was half a fee in Scaldwell, Houghton, and Hothorpe held by Simon Major,⁴ and this half fee was held in 1242 by Simon son of Simon,⁵ who was succeeded at Brixworth, and evidently here also, by his nephew John de Verdun in 1280.⁶

A return of knights' fees for 1284 includes 13 virgates held by Richard Trussell in Scaldwell of William Trussell,⁷ by William of John de Verdun, and by John of John de Hastings.⁸ John de Verdun was succeeded by his son Thomas, returned as holding a quarter of a fee in Lamport, Houghton, Scaldwell, and Hothorpe in 1312.⁹ As this Thomas died in 1315,¹⁰ his heir being his son John, it was presumably John's brother¹¹ Thomas who held a third of a fee in 1325;¹² and this third was in the hands of his heirs in 1376.¹³

These heirs may have been the family of Seyton of Maidwell, one of whom, Sir Nicholas, living about 1320, is said to have married Susan daughter of Sir John Verdun.¹⁴ They had certainly acquired the Trussell interest before 1428, when John Seyton held a quarter fee in Scaldwell formerly belonging to John Trussell,¹⁵ and from them the manor acquired its name of *SETONS*. The manors of Maidwell and Scaldwell were in the hands of trustees from about 1464 to 1472, when a rent of 40s. from Scaldwell was paid by them to Alice widow of Thomas Seyton.¹⁶ Some fifty years later Joan daughter and co-heir of Everard Seyton and wife of Francis Metcalf appears to have sold a moiety of the manor to Edmund



SEYTON. *Gules a bend between six martlets or.*

Hasilwode¹⁷ whose son John subsequently sold Seton's Manor to William Hochison, rector of Scaldwell, who died in March 1545, his heir being his brother Richard.¹⁸ The rector had acquired other properties in the parish, to which reference is made below, and constituted them into one manor subsequently known as Setons *alias HUTCHINS*. Its later history is obscure, but it was conveyed in 1608 by George Watkin and Mary his wife and John Watkin to Christopher Greene, clerk;¹⁹ and in 1658 by Edward Palmer and Mary his wife to Thomas Sprigge.²⁰ In 1717 one third of the manor was sold by Edward Mackenness and Elizabeth his wife to John Langford and Nathaniel Pyewell;²¹ and in 1772 Martin Nunn and Mary his wife with Mary Davis conveyed a moiety to Thomas Wayte.²²

In 1086, 3 virgates in Scaldwell, appurtenant to 'Wadenhoe',²³ were held by Aubrey [de Vere] of the Bishop of Coutances.²⁴ In the Northamptonshire Survey 3 great virgates in Scaldwell were held by Aubrey's heir and namesake of the fee of Oxford, and probably became part of the manor of Wold (q.v.).²⁵ This estate seems to be represented by the barn, messuage, and 2¼ virgates of land which William Hochison had purchased of the Master and Guardians of St. Mary within the parish church of All Saints in Northampton²⁶ and which were held of the Earl of Oxford by William Hochison at his death, as part of his manor of Scaldwell, and by him bequeathed to his brother Thomas Hochison and John son of the said Thomas.²⁷

In the Domesday Survey 1 hide and 3 virgates in Scaldwell, which had been held before the Conquest by Earl Algar, and after the death of Queen Maud were bestowed on St. Edmund's Abbey by the Conqueror for the soul of the queen, were among the lands of the abbey.²⁸ It was returned in the Northamptonshire Survey as 1½ hides and 1 great virgate of the fee of St. Edmund,²⁹ and in 1284 the Abbot of St. Edmund's held 12 virgates in Scaldwell.³⁰ Of this property 9 virgates were held of the abbey in 1516 by William Lane, and at his death on 12 May 1527 descended to his son Ralf Lane.³¹ This also had been acquired by William Hochison, clerk, and formed part of the manor of which he was seised at his death, being held of Sir Edward Montagu as of his manor of Warkton, formerly owned by the abbey of St. Edmund's.³²

Bridges states³³ that when he wrote the courts for Scaldwell were held at Lamport, and the lands divided among fifteen or sixteen freeholders. In the Inclosure Act of 1775, when about 1,000 acres were inclosed, Sir Justinian Isham, bart., was returned as lord of the manor of Scaldwell, and saving of rights was assured to him 'or other lords of the manor'.³⁴ At a more recent date the rights of the Montagus were also exercised

¹ *Ex inf.* the Rector; and see *The Northampton Independent*, 4 Sept. 1926.

² *V.C.H. Northants.* i, 353b.

³ *Ibid.* 380b.

⁴ *Bk. of Fees*, 495, 501.

⁵ *Ibid.* 938.

⁶ *Cal. Close*, 1279-88, p. 50.

⁷ Cf. Lamport. A William Trussell, temp. Henry III, granted a rent in Scaldwell towards a chantry at Marston Trussell for the souls of his father Richard and Maud his wife: Harl. Ch. 57 A. 53.

⁸ *Feud. Aids*, iv, 2.

⁹ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* v, 412.

¹⁰ *Ibid.* v, 596.

¹¹ *Cal. Fine R.* iv, 408.

¹² *Cal. Inq. p.m.* vi, 612.

¹³ *Cal. Close*, 1374-7, p. 189.

¹⁴ Bridges, *Hist. of Northants.* ii, 46.

¹⁵ *Feud. Aids*, iv, 33. John Trussell was holding in 1346; *ibid.* 446.

¹⁶ Add. Ch. 22413; cf. *ibid.* 22292, 22295. For the pedigree of Seyton see *V.C.H. Rutland*, ii, 217.

¹⁷ Add. Ch. 22307; cf. Bridges, *op. cit.* ii, 46.

¹⁸ Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), lxxii, 55.

¹⁹ Feet of F. Northants. Mich. 6 Jas. I.

²⁰ *Ibid.* Mich. 1658.

²¹ *Ibid.* Hil. 3 Geo. I.

²² *Ibid.* Mich. 13 Geo. III.

²³ Probably an error for 'Wold': *V.C.H. Northants.* i, 362.

²⁴ *Ibid.* 309b.

²⁵ *Ibid.* 380.

²⁶ Apparently a gild, otherwise unknown.

²⁷ Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), lxxii, 55.

²⁸ *V.C.H. Northants.* i, 318a. See also *ibid.* 282-5. The abbey had acquired Algar's lands in Warkton and in Boughton.

²⁹ *Ibid.* 380b.

³⁰ *Feud. Aids*, iv, 2.

³¹ Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), xlii, 16.

³² *Ibid.* lxxii, 55.

³³ *Hist. of Northants.* ii, 125.

³⁴ Priv. Stat. 15 Geo. III, cap. 24.

by their heirs the Dukes of Buccleuch; but courts have subsequently been held by the Ishams alone.¹

At the Dissolution the abbey of St. Mary of Delapré held lands worth 1*s.* 5*d.* and rents to the value of £2 3*s.* 2*d.* in Scaldwell.² These had their origin in small gifts made in the 13th century by Richard de Scaldwell, clerk, and Lettice daughter of Adam de Scaldwell.³

Grants of land for the building of a mill were made in the reign of Henry III. William son of Andrew de Scaldwell granted to Christine de Scaldwell, mother of Sir Elias le Chaplain, land in Scaldwell at a yearly rent of one halfpenny;⁴ and this grant was followed by one from Christine de Scaldwell, daughter of Robert, to Elias the chaplain, her son, of land with a windmill thereon granted to her by the said William.⁵ This must have been on the Bury property, as land called Hattons Land, late in the occupation of Richard Scaldwell, and a windmill, with the balk on which it stood, was held by William Hochison of Sir Edward Montagu's manor of Warkton.⁶

A considerable number of grants of land in Scaldwell by or to the families of Blunt, de Cransley, Hedon, &c., are to be found among Additional Charters at the British Museum.⁷

The church of *ST. PETER AND ST. PAUL CHURCH* consists of chancel, 23 ft. 3 in. by 15 ft. 3 in., with north aisle and south vestry and organ-chamber, nave of two bays, 25 ft. 9 in. by 16 ft., north aisle, 12 ft. 9 in. wide, south aisle, 7 ft. 6 in. wide, south porch, and west tower, 8 ft. 9 in. by 8 ft. 3 in., all these measurements being internal.

In 1863 the building was extensively restored, two wide galleries filling the north aisle and the whole of the west end being then taken down, the north aisle extended westward about 10 ft., covering the tower, the vestry and organ-chamber added, and the church reseated. Until that time the aisles were of equal length and the chancel stood free on the south side.

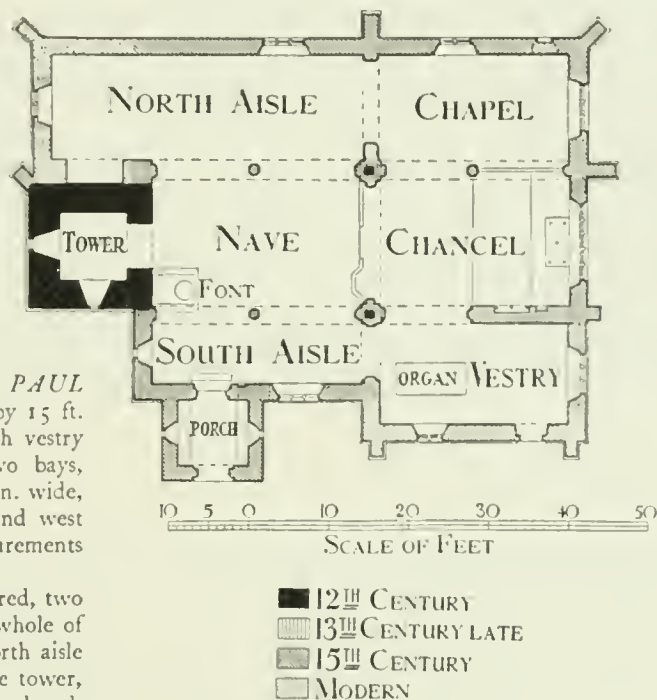
The oldest part of the building is the tower, which is of 12th-century date; the chancel arch, south arcade and aisle, together with a window in the chancel aisle, are of the late 13th century, while the north arcade and aisle and its extension eastward, and the porch date from the 15th century. The south clerestory was probably an addition of this period, but all its windows are modern, and real evidence of date is therefore wanting. There is no clerestory on the north, the arcade and the aisle wall on that side being of much greater height than on the south.

The architectural history of the building seems to be as follows: the tower belongs to a Norman church which probably covered the area of the present nave, with a small square-ended chancel. To this, about 1280, aisles were added, the nave walls being replaced by arcades and a new chancel built round the old one, which was then pulled down. In the 15th century the north aisle was widened, the arcade rebuilt on a bigger scale, new windows inserted, and a chapel or aisle added on the north side of the chancel, opening to it by two pointed arches, and extending its full length.

The plan then remained unaltered until the 19th century.

The church is built throughout of rubble,⁸ and the roofs are of low pitch, leaded to nave and aisles, and slated over the chancel. At the east end of the nave over the chancel arch is a sanctus bell-cote with a rectangular opening below that for the bell. The south aisle and vestry have plain parapets, but the other roofs are eaved.

The chancel has a restored 15th-century window of five lights with Perpendicular tracery and in the gable above a quatrefoil opening within a circle lighting the roof space, but a 13th-century string at sill level con-



PLAN OF SCALDWELL CHURCH

tinued round the south buttress shows that the original walling remains. The arches on the north side are of two chamfered orders, on an octagonal pier and similar responds, all with moulded capitals; in the south wall at the west end is a modern arch to the organ-chamber. The trefoil-headed piscina and double sedilia are modern restorations, as are the responds of the chancel arch, but the arch itself, of two chamfered orders, is ancient. The dwarf stone screen and gates and all the fittings of the chancel are modern.

The arches of the south arcade are of two chamfered orders springing from an octagonal pier with moulded capital and chamfered base and from responds of similar character, the height to the springing being 7 ft. 6 in. The later and loftier north arcade has also arches of two chamfered orders, and the pier and responds are of octagonal form. In the south aisle is a trefoil-headed piscina, but the east window has been removed to the vestry. It is of three lights with the mullions crossing in the head and has a double bracket on the south jamb internally. The aisle is now open at its east end to the organ-chamber, but at the west is a tall lancet with

¹ Kelly, *Directories*.

² Dugdale, *Mss. Angl.* v, 215.

³ Ibid. 212.

⁴ Add. Ch. 22406.

⁵ Ibid. 22404-5.

⁶ Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), lxxii, 55.

⁷ Add. Chs. 22407-9, 22411, 21767,

21797, &c.

⁸ Except the modern vestry, which is of dressed stone.

A HISTORY OF NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

wide internal splay, and in the south wall an inserted 15th-century window of three lights. The round-headed south doorway is modern, or a restoration: it is of two hollow-chamfered orders and has shafted jambs, but seems to have been originally of 13th-century date.

The chapel north of the chancel is separated from the nave aisle by a 15th-century arch, and has a modern Perpendicular east window. In its north wall are two windows which are not in their original positions. One, at the east end, is a plain lancet,¹ now blocked and not seen on the inside, the other a two-light window with forked mullion, both probably moved here from the north wall of the chancel when the chapel was added. The window at the west end of the extended north aisle is also old, with forked mullion, a relic of the original aisle before its reconstruction.

The tower is of three stages with plain modern parapet and angle pinnacles, the upper stage slightly recessed. In the lower story are two small round-headed windows, south and west, widely splayed inside, and the bell-chamber windows are of two rounded lights, with slightly chamfered mullion, within a plain semi-circular arch. The middle stage is blank. A diagonal buttress has been added at the north-west angle, probably in the 15th century. The tower arch is pointed and of a single square order. There is no vice. Bridges,² writing about 1720, speaks of a 'plain coped tower', which suggests an original saddle-back roof.

The font is of late-13th-century date and consists of a circular bowl moulded round the edge, and pillared stem with five attached shafts, two of the intervening spaces having quatrefoiled circles and roses tournantes. The oak cover is modern, but the Elizabethan font cover is preserved in the belfry. On the west wall of the porch is an inscribed stone to the memory of Edward Palmer (d. 1662).

The four bells are all of 17th-century date, the second cast by Henry Bagley, of Chacombe, in 1682, and the others by Hugh Watts, of Leicester, in 1621.³

The plate consists of a modern medieval chalice of 1868, a paten of 1878, and a flagon of 1893 presented by Major C. A. Markham.⁴

The registers before 1812 are as follows: (i) baptisms 1560-1600, 1604-51, marriages and burials 1560-1647; (ii) baptisms 1653-94, marriages 1655-85, burials 1653-78; (iii) baptisms and marriages 1695-1725, burials 1678-94; (iv) baptisms and burials 1726-57, marriages 1726-53; (v) baptisms 1758-1808, burials 1758-1809; (vi) marriages 1754-1812; (vii) baptisms 1808-12, burials 1810-12.

On the south side of the church is the socket of a churchyard cross.

¹ It may have been originally a low-side window: see *Assoc. Arch. Soc. Reports*, xxix, 444.

² *Op. cit.* ii, 126.

³ North, *Ch. Bells of Northants.* 397, where the inscriptions are given.

⁴ Markham, *Ch. Plate of Northants.* 255. A silver-plated plate of 1839, given to the Kilburn Sisters in 1883, is now at Inglewood, Taranaki, N.Z.

⁵ *Tax. Eccl. (Rec. Com.)*, 39, 42b.

⁶ *Valor Eccl. (Rec. Com.)*, iv, 306.

The church was valued in 1291 at *ADVOWSON* £5 6s. 8d.⁵ In 1535 the value of the rectory with issues from mansion and glebe was £14 11s. 5d.⁶

The advowson, apparently at first held with the manor (q.v.), was held by the abbey of St. Edmund from the time of its grant to that abbey in 1198-9 by Peter de Malesoures until the Dissolution, the grant made by Peter son of Ingram, Peter son of William and Alice his wife, and Ralph son of Peter and Lettice his wife in 1224 resulting in a confirmation of that made by Peter de Malesoures. In 1542 the advowson was granted to Sir Edward Montagu, Lord Chief Justice,⁷ and was held by his descendants, by whom it was occasionally leased for one term,⁸ until recently. In 1914 the patronage was exercised by the Earl of Dalkeith, but in 1920 it was transferred by the Duke of Buccleuch to the Bishop of Peterborough, who now holds the advowson.

Edward Palmer by his will dated *CHARITIES* 15 August 1685 bequeathed £100 for the benefit of the poor. The money was laid out in the purchase of certain lands in the open fields. On an inclosure of the open fields a close of 8 acres was awarded in lieu of the lands. The land is let yearly and the rent is distributed in cash.

Thomas Roe by will proved at Northampton in 1666 gave a rentcharge of 30s. a year. This charge is paid out of four cottages and a smithy in School Lane; 10s. is paid yearly to the rector for preaching a sermon on 5 December, and £1 is distributed in bread at the Thanksgiving Service.

Poor's allotment. On an inclosure of the parish in 1775 an allotment of 4 a. 1 r. 17 p. and an annual payment of 10s. out of a Mill Bank annexed to Scaldwell Mill were awarded for the benefit of the poor in lieu of their right of cutting furze on the commons. The land is let yearly and the income is distributed in coal to the poor by the rector and three other trustees.

The Town Well Estate. This property comprised in a deed of feoffment dated 13 March 1563 is regulated by a Scheme of the Charity Commissioners dated 27 March 1906. The property consists of 2 messuages at Scaldwell let for £9 4s., 2 r. 7 p. of garden ground let for £2 8s., and £30 4s. 3d. Consols with the Official Trustees of Charitable Funds producing 15s. yearly. The income, originally applied in keeping the public well in repair, is still so applied; any surplus may be used for improvements in the village.

The Highway Field is let annually and the income, formerly given for the repair of the roads, is now applied for the relief of the rates.

Scaldwell elementary school benefits by the benefaction of Thomas Roe (1665), as mentioned under Brixworth.

⁷ Pat. R. 33 Hen. VIII, pt. 17; *L. and P. Hen. VIII*, xvi, g. 678 (56); xvii, g. 220 (63).

⁸ Feet of F. Div. Co. Trin. 9 Chas. I; *ibid.* Mich. 1658.



SCALDWELL CHURCH, FROM THE SOUTH



WALGRAVE CHURCH, FROM THE NORTH, c. 1800

WALGRAVE

Woldgrave (xi cent.); Waldegrave (xiii cent.).

This parish lies to the west of the road from Northampton to Kettering, which for a short distance forms its eastern boundary; and is bounded on the north by Broughton, south by Hannington and Holcot, east by Orlingbury, and west by Old. The ground in a considerable part of it rises as high as 400 ft. or more, but the village is situated in something of a hollow, and has a stream running to the south of it. It is very pretty and compact and occupies the centre of the parish, along a road branching west from the Northampton road. This branch road is crossed by another running north and south: the church stands on high ground at the centre of the village near their point of intersection, and close to the church is a ford. Grouped near by are the smithy; the Council school, a large building erected in 1900 to replace one built in 1828; the Baptist chapel, erected in 1788, with a small burial-ground attached; and the Calvinistic Baptist chapel built in 1853. The rectory house, built in 1687 by John Smith, rector, but subsequently enlarged, stands east of the church. At the west end of the village, on the Holcot road, is a thatched house dated 1672.

Lewis referred in 1849¹ to the remains of a cross in the centre of the village, and a cross has now been erected on the village green as a memorial to twenty-five men of the parish who gave their lives in the Great War 1914-18.

In a field at the northern end of the village are the remains of a moat, and the foundations of the house to which it belonged, probably the 'Northall' referred to in certain documents. Walgrave Hall stands a short distance to the south-east of the village, on the road to Hannington, and is a 17th-century two-story building with attics, now a farm house, with a projecting gabled wing at the east end, and slated roofs.² Though much altered and modernized the house retains some of its mullioned windows, and contains a fine oak staircase, with flat balusters and panelled newels with open-work finials. The great hall was originally 39 ft. by 19 ft. 3 in., but has been divided: over the fireplace on the north side (now a passage) are the arms³ of Sir John Langham, bart., with the date 1674, probably placed here by his second son Dr. W. Langham after he took possession of the Hall in 1671.⁴ The front of the house, which faces south, is in the main of Weldon stone, but elsewhere the walling is of local ironstone, and the chimneys are of brick. The gateway has good stone piers with finials. Fishponds in the grounds are fed by the stream previously referred to. It is now owned and occupied by William A. Knight, esq., one of the principal landowners.

The population, which in 1871 was 660, was 659 in 1931.⁵ The area of the parish is 2,381 acres. The

soil is partly clay and partly northern sand; subsoil ironstone. The chief crops are wheat, barley, and much of the land is pasture.

The parish has had many notable inhabitants. As rector in the early 17th century it had the celebrated Archbishop Williams,⁶ who was presented to Walgrave in 1614 and retained the living after his appointment, in 1621, as Bishop of Lincoln, of whom it was alleged in 1638 'he has never been at Walgrave since he was made bishop, whereat the whole county murmurs'.⁷ But the work he did in repairing the church still bears his initials and the date 1633, and he left land to the poor. Another rector of Walgrave was Walter Whitford, who as Bishop of Brechin in 1637 had ascended his pulpit in Scotland to read the new service armed with a brace of pistols, his servants and family attending him armed, after which, on taking refuge in England, upon his deposition and excommunication by the Glasgow Assembly, he was presented to Walgrave on 5 May 1642.⁸

Three hides and 3 virgates in *WAL-MANORS GRAVE*, appurtenant to the manor of Faxton, which were before the Conquest held with soc and sac by Alsi, were in 1086 among the lands of the Countess Judith, being then, as formerly, worth £3.⁹ The overlordship descended with the honor of Huntingdon, as Yardley Hastings (q.v.).

The Malesoures family were under-tenants in this manor from an early date. Fulcher, who was holding under the Countess Judith in 1086,¹⁰ and Henry, his successor in the 12th century,¹¹ were members of that family.¹² Geoffrey de Malesoures, described as son of Henry de Malesoures in the grant of Walgrave church made by him to the priory of Daventry,¹³ appears in 1242 as holding this fee in Walgrave,¹⁴ which he had obtained in 1227 from Walter de Malesoures.¹⁵ It was possibly his son of whom we are told¹⁶ that 'there was strife and hatred between Master William Brokedys, parson of Walgrave, and Robert Malesoures of Walgrave about a common of pasture in the fields of Walgrave. And so, as Robert was passing William's door on 9 September 1274 in the twilight, there came William Pollard, William Pillerowe, and Walter, servant of Master Alan de Brokedys, and dragged Robert within Master William's door, and slew him with their knives, and this they did by assent of Master Alan Brokedys, and before his eyes; and Catelina, servant of Master William, held a burning candle while they slew Robert.' Henry Malesoures was holding Walgrave in 1275 and claimed view of frankpledge, assize of bread and ale, &c.¹⁷ The last Malesoures recorded in Walgrave was Richard son of Henry who was holding of John de Hastings in 1284.¹⁸

Walgrave was next held by the family of Walgrave

¹ *Topog. Dict.*

² 'The whole of the roof was at some time taken off and reinstated at a lower level.' The modern ceiling rests upon the tops of the upper landing staircase newels. *Northants. N. & Q.* n.s. vi, 58, where a description of the house is given, and a drawing by Geo. Clarke, 1836, reproduced.

³ Langham impaling Bunce.

⁴ 'He simply erected his Father's arms with a Knight's helm, to which he was then entitled, and added a crescent for dif-

ference': *Northants. N. & Q.* n.s. vi, 58.

⁵ In 1705 there were 37 freeholders in Walgrave: in 1831 there were 14: Poll Books.

⁶ *Dict. Nat. Biog.*

⁷ *Cal. S.P. Dom.* 1638-9, p. 219. He had had trouble in 1618 with some of his parishioners who objected to his upholding 'The Declaration of Sports': *Hist. MSS. Com. Rep. on the MSS. of Lord Montagu of Beaulieu*, 94.

⁸ *Dict. Nat. Biog.*

⁹ *V.C.H. Northants.* i, 353a.

¹⁰ *Ibid.*

¹¹ *V.C.H. Northants.* i, 380.

¹² Cf. *ibid.* 380-1, Lampont, Pitsford, &c.

¹³ Dugdale, *Mon. Angl.* v, 182.

¹⁴ *Bk. of Fees*, 938.

¹⁵ Feet of F. *Northants.* Hen. III, file 23, no. 226.

¹⁶ *Cal. Inq. Misc.* 1219-1307, no. 2188.

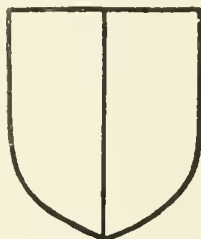
¹⁷ *Hund. R. (Rec. Com.)*, ii, 12.

¹⁸ *Feud. Aids*, iv, 1.

A HISTORY OF NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

or de Waldegrave, a family owning property in Norfolk, Suffolk, and Essex, and according to a fabulous legend in the Norfolk visitation of 1563¹ holding lands in the county of Northampton from the time of the Conquest. Hugh de Waldegrave had with Alice his wife, and Robert de Warr and Isabel his wife, received a grant of land in Walgrave from William de Northampton in 1252-3.² John son of Walter was holding Walgrave in 1316,³ and was possibly the John de Walgrave included in the list of persons for whose souls Ralph de Walgrave, parson of Walgrave,⁴ in 1328 founded a chantry in the parish church.⁵ John de Walgrave was holding the manor in 1329⁶ and 1346.⁷ He had been succeeded before 1384 by Sir Richard de Waldegrave,⁸ to whom free warren in his lands in Walgrave, Hannington, and Twywell was granted in that year.⁹ In 1428 Richard de Waldegrave was holding the fee in Walgrave formerly held by John Waldegrave.¹⁰ As Sir Richard de Waldegrave, senior, he, with his wife Joan (Doreward), settled the manors of Walgrave and Twywell in 1437-8 on his son Richard and Alice his wife.¹¹ Richard, the son, died (s.p.) on 20 June 1453, seised of this manor, his heir being his (elder) brother Thomas;¹² the manor remained in the hands of Alice his widow until her death on 12 June 1478,¹³ when William, son of the said Thomas, succeeded to it.¹⁴ His son, Sir William Walgrave, in 1506 granted a lease for 99 years of the manor at £20 rent to William Lane, together with view of frankpledge, court baron, &c. The grant contained permission for cutting timber for the repair of the houses and buildings of the mansion of the manor, 'which mansion is now set there in the close called the Hall Close'.¹⁵ William Lane, lessee of the manor, died on 12 May 1527,¹⁶ having bequeathed his lease of the manor to his wife Jane, with reversion to his sons John, William, and Ralph. William Lane's heir was his son Ralph, who had in 1517 married Maud daughter and co-heir of Sir William Parr.

Sir William Waldegrave died seised of the manor of



WALDEGRAVE. *Party argent and gules.*

Walgrave on 30 January 1528.¹⁷ He was succeeded by his son George, who died on the following 8 July.¹⁸ George Waldegrave was succeeded by his son William,¹⁹ who in 1540, together with his brothers George and William, and Mary Frances wife of George, sold the manor to John Lane, the then lessee.²⁰ John Lane made a settlement of the manor on his marriage with Elizabeth, daughter of Robert Packington, and died on 12 September 1557.²¹ His son William, who then succeeded him at the age of 13,²² died on 8 August 1559, his heir being his brother John.²³ Elizabeth Lane, their mother, continued to hold the manor in jointure, and married as her second husband Sir Richard Malory of London.²⁴ For many years the manor was the subject of family disputes.²⁵ Her son John Lane, in 1566, on his marriage with Agnes daughter of Edward Montagu of Boughton, settled the reversion of the manor on Agnes for her life, with remainder in tail male to the heirs of John and Agnes.²⁶ Various conveyances of the manor were made for the purpose of raising money, to which John Lane and his wife Agnes, Edward and Augustine his brothers, Sir Edward Montagu, and Sir Robert Lane²⁷ were parties, together with William Saunders of Harrington, who advanced money on the manor and was in subsequent Chancery proceedings described as its purchaser for £3,000.²⁸ The manor was in 1576 conveyed by John Lane to his brother Edward,²⁹ which led to lawsuits succeeding each other for more than half a century. In 1579 the brothers John and Edward conveyed the manor to William Saunders (of Harrington) and his son Edward.³⁰ William Saunders died seised thereof on 14 July 1582,³¹ and was succeeded by his son Edward, to whom in the same year a conveyance of the manor was made by John Lane and his wife Anne.³² In 1590 the manors of Walgrave and Northall were conveyed by Edward Saunders to Thomas Pagitt,³³ who in 1611, with James Pagitt and his wife Katharine, sold them to Ferdinand Bawde and Lawrence Eyton.³⁴ The manor had been confirmed to Thomas Pagitt by a decree of Chancery,³⁵ for the reversal of which Robert Lane appealed. Orders in connexion with his petition were being issued in 1626,³⁶ but the case Lane *versus* Bawde (apparently then William Bawde son of Ferdinand) respecting the manor of Walgrave was still dragging on in 1641, when

¹ *Visitation of Norfolk*, 1563 (Harl. Soc.), 295-300.

² Feet of F. Northants. 37 Hen. III, no. 609.

³ *Feud. Aids*, iv, 21.

⁴ *Abbrev. Rot. Orig.* (Rec. Com.), ii, 269.

⁵ *Cal. Pat.* 1327-30, p. 271.

⁶ *Plac. de Quo Warr.* (Rec. Com.), 562.

⁷ *Feud. Aids*, iv, 446.

⁸ He is said in the Norfolk Visitation to have been buried at Bures St. Mary (Suff.) in 1400.

⁹ Chart. R. 7 & 8 Ric. II, m. 13, no. 15.

¹⁰ *Feud. Aids*, iv, 33.

¹¹ Feet of F. Northants. 16 Hen. VI, no. 81; Chan. Inq. p.m. 32 Hen. VI, no. 36.

¹² *Ibid.* Thomas, as the eldest son, had inherited Bures, where he was buried: *Visit. of Norf.* 1563 (Harl. Soc.), 296.

¹³ Chan. Inq. p.m. 18 Edw. IV, no. 22.

¹⁴ *Ibid.* An inscription quoted in the Norfolk Visitation shows that Sir Thomas Waldegrave, Kt, had been buried in Bures church in 1500 and had married Elizabeth eldest daughter and co-heir of John Fray,

chief Baron of the Exchequer.

¹⁵ Com. Pleas. Deeds Enr. Hil. 21 Hen. VII.

¹⁶ Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), xlv, 16. He held with the manor a chief messuage, quarters of land called Austens and Sprotts, a virgate called Houghton Yard Land or Kathelen Yard Land, lands and rents called Stanards, messuages and quarters of land called Alens, Hoggis, and Petytts, and a rent called Colpeper's Rent, &c.

¹⁷ Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), xlviii, 79.

¹⁸ *Ibid.* 85.

¹⁹ Exch. Inq. p.m. dcex, 12. The Norfolk Visitation states that in 1544 he 'was captain of 200 Suffolk men in France. He sold this manor of Waldegrave in co. Northampton to one Lane of that county.'

²⁰ Feet of F. Northants. Mich. 32 Hen. VIII; Bridges, *Hist. of Northants.*

ii, 128.

²¹ Exch. Inq. p.m. dcxc, 12.

²² *Ibid.*

²³ Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), cxxvii, 27. With the manor were then held 12 messuages, 1 water-mill, and 1 windmill.

²⁴ Chan. Proc. (Ser. 2), cxxii, 24.

²⁵ *Ibid.* cxiii, 80.

²⁶ Chan. Proc. (Ser. 2), cxxviii, 24; Feet of F. Northants. Mich. 8 & 9 Eliz.

²⁷ This must have been Sir Robert Lane of Horton. See Lane Pedigree, *Visit. of Northants.* 186.

²⁸ Chan. Proc. (Ser. 2), cxxviii, 24.

²⁹ Feet of F. Northants. Hil. 18 Eliz.; Pat. R. 17 Chas. II, pt. 7, no. 13.

³⁰ Feet of F. Northants. East. 21 Eliz.

³¹ Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), ccii, 172.

³² Feet of F. Northants. Mich. 24 & 25 Eliz.

³³ *Ibid.* Mich. 32 & 33 Eliz.; cf. Chan. Proc. (Ser. 2), cxxviii, 24.

³⁴ Feet of F. Northants. East. 9 Jas. I. Lawrence Eyton was husband of Ferdinand's daughter Katharine: Metcalfe, *Visit. of Northants.* 68.

³⁵ *Hist. MSS. Com. Rep.* iv (1), 12.

³⁶ *Ibid.* In the same year, 1626, the Bishop of Lincoln (John Williams, rector of Walgrave) requested Sir Thomas Tresham and Sir John Isham to act as arbitrators between him and Mr. Bawd [Ferdinand] of Walgrave concerning a sale of lands there. (Deeds from book belonging to Ishams of Lamport, p. 83.)

Robert Lane had petitioned to sue *in forma pauperis*.¹ On 17 January 1648 the matter was still further complicated by an order in Parliament that the Committee at Goldsmiths' Hall should sell the estate of William Bawde at Walgrave for his recusancy and delinquency and apply the proceeds to pay Parliament's debt to shoemakers of Northampton.² In 1650 these claims on the estate were under consideration: (1) that of Montague Lane son of Robert, who now begged examination of his title; (2) that of Thomas Atterbury and John Gurney, tenants of William Bawde, who claimed allowance for repairs to manor, mills, &c.; (3) that of Thomas Knighton and Henry Wellden, tenants to the state, who begged allowance for repairs from the rents of Atterbury and Gurney; (4) that of the children of William Bawde—Jeronima, William, and Ferdinand—who begged one-fifth of their father's estate pending the hearing of his appeal against sequestration as a popish recusant in arms; and (5) that of Bawde himself who desired to be admitted tenant to his own estate while on his appeal. After further disputes the matter was settled in 1653 by the discharge from sequestration of the manor, on its purchase from the Treason Trustees by Major John Browne, as forfeited by William Bawde.³ Eventually Browne and Bawde sold it for £8,630 to John Langham,⁴ who was later created in 1660 knight, and then baronet, as Sir John Langham of Cottesbrooke, Alderman of London.⁵

In 1657 John Langham settled Walgrave on his second son William at his marriage with Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Anthony Haslewood.⁶ William Langham made his title to the manor secure by obtaining in 1664 conveyances of it to himself from Ferdinand Bawde (one of the children referred to in the proceedings of the Committee for Compounding⁷) and Ann his wife,⁸ and from Charles Proger Herbert and Jeronima his wife.⁹

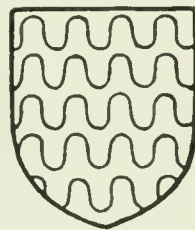
By the death without issue in 1699 of his elder brother, Sir James Langham of Cottesbrooke, Dr. William Langham succeeded to the baronetcy and that manor, and it is with Cottesbrooke (q.v.) that Walgrave has since then descended in the Langham family.¹⁰

Half a hide in Walgrave held freely before the Conquest by Martin was in 1086 held of the Count of Mortain by Robert and had risen in value from 5s. to 10s.¹¹ This Robert was most probably Robert de Meulan, whose son Robert Earl of Leicester¹² was holding this half-hide in the 12th century.¹³ In 1270 Roger de Quincy, Earl of Winchester, was holding this half-hide,¹⁴ which on the division in 1204 of the Leicester fief¹⁵ between co-heirs, had descended to Amice or Avice, daughter and co-heir of Robert Earl of Leicester,

and from Amice to her son Robert de Quincy Earl of Winchester, and his son Roger.¹⁶ Ellen, (youngest) daughter of Roger de Quincy, succeeded her father as co-heir, and from her this quarter fee descended to her son Roger la Zouche, whose son Alan la Zouche¹⁷ died seised of a fourth part of a knight's fee in Walgrave and Nortoft in 1314,¹⁸ leaving three daughters as co-heirs. This quarter fee descended to his daughter Maud, wife of Robert Holand, who in 1329–30 proved her right to view of frankpledge and other liberties in the hamlet of Walgrave¹⁹ as a member of the manor of Hawes (q.v.). Maud, their grand-daughter and heir, married John, Lord Lovel of Tichmarsh,²⁰ and the Lovels of Tichmarsh next held this quarter fee, which in 1428 was returned as divided between Sir [William] Lovell and Sir John Welles.²¹ It continued to be held by the Lovels until, in 1491, after the attainder of Francis Lord Lovel in 1487, all the lands in Walgrave held by him of the Winchester fee were granted to John Moton,²² after which the overlordship seems to have lapsed.

In 1270 this quarter fee was held under Roger de Quincy by Alan de Romely, under whom William de Turevill was holding, of him William de Novencurt, and of him Thomas le Lord.²³ It was still held by Thomas le Lord in 1284 of William de Novacurt or Novencurt, who was then said to be holding of Robert de 'Romeny', Robert of William de Turvill, and William de Turvill of the Earl of Leicester.²⁴ John son of Thomas le Lord was holding it in 1314.²⁵

A manor of Walgrave called *BRAUNSPATHES* and later *ELBOROWES* was possibly identical with that just mentioned. In 1456 it was conveyed by John Watford and Elizabeth his wife to Robert Isham and others.²⁶ This was appurtenant to the chief manor of Walgrave held of the honor of Huntingdon, as in 1617 Anne Elborowe, who died at Brixworth on 1 July 1594, was said to have been seised jointly with her husband Thomas Elborowe, but in her right, of a manor called Braunespathes in Walgrave, and tenements in Brixworth, formerly parcel of the possessions of Anthony Salisbury, her grandfather; this manor had been held of Thomas Paget as of his manor of Walgrave, and at the date of the inquisition was held of Ferdinand Bawde as of that manor.²⁷ William Elborowe, her son and heir, had been succeeded in 1657 by Thomas Elborowe, clerk, and Frances his wife who with John Goodman, clerk, and Isabel his wife conveyed it as the manor of



LOVEL, of Tichmarsh.
Barry wavy or and gules.

¹ *Hist. MSS. Comm. Rep.* iv (1), 30, 92.
² *Cal. of Proc. of Com. for Comp.* 1292, 1806–12. The manor was leased for 3 years at £400 a year. The rent proposed for this manor in 1652 was £447.

³ *Cal. of Proc. of Com. for Comp.* 1808; *Recov. R. Trin.* 1653, ro. 76; *Feet of F. Northants.* Mich. 1653.

⁴ Bridges, *Hist. of Northants.* ii, 128; *Feet of F. Northants.* Mich. 1655.

⁵ G.E.C. *Complete Baronetage*, iii, 30.

⁶ Bridges, *Hist. of Northants.* ii, 128.

⁷ *Cal. of Proc. of Com. for Comp.* 1806.

⁸ *Feet of F. Northants.* Trin. 16 Chas. II.

⁹ *Ibid.* Jeronima, daughter of William Bawde, was in 1653 wife of Charles Proger. (Deeds from book belonging to Ishams of

Lampport, p. 74); cf. *Cal. S.P. Dom.* 1664–5, pp. 127, 245. *Pat. R.* 17 Chas. II, pt. 7, no. 13. The family of Proger sometimes used the suffix ap Herbert.

¹⁰ *Com. Pleas, Deeds Enr. East.* 13 Geo. III, mm. 3, 44, 46; *ibid.* 14 Geo. III, m. 2; *Priv. Stat.* 16 Geo. III, cap. 68; *Recov. R. East.* 35 Geo. III, ro. 18; Kelly, *Directories*.

¹¹ *P.C.H. Northants.* i, 327–8.

¹² G.E.C. *Peerage*, v, 40–1.

¹³ *P.C.H. Northants.* i, 381.

¹⁴ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* nos. 732, 776.

¹⁵ For an account of the Meulans and the Leicester fief see *P.C.H. Northants.* i, 360, &c.

¹⁶ *Plac. de Quo Warr.* (Rec. Com.), 550–1.

¹⁷ *Ibid.* 550.

¹⁸ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* v, no. 458.

¹⁹ *Plac. de Quo Warr.* (Rec. Com.), 550.

²⁰ G.E.C. *Complete Peerage* (2nd ed.), vi, 530.

²¹ This return appears to have combined this quarter fee with Lord Welles' fee in Faxton, Walgrave, and Moulton.

²² *Cal. Pat.* 1485–94, p. 341.

²³ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* i, no. 776.

²⁴ *Feud. Aids*, iv, 1. This should evidently be 'the heir of the Earl of Leicester'.

²⁵ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* v, no. 458.

²⁶ *Feet of F. Northants.* 34 Hen. VI, no. 140.

²⁷ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), ecclvii, 71.

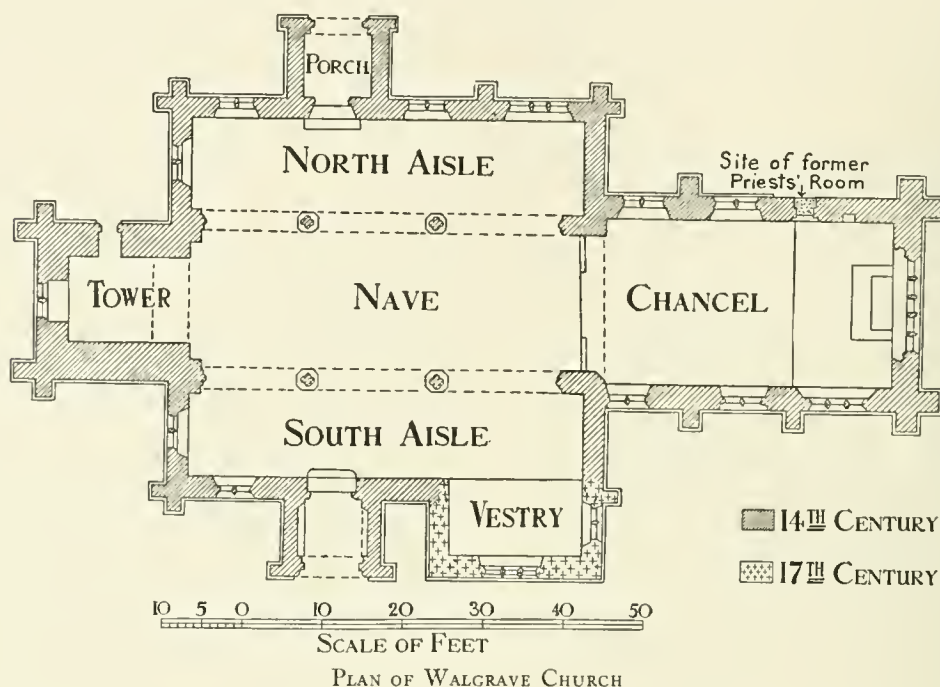
A HISTORY OF NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

Walgrave to John Langham.¹ It continued to be held with the principal manor, which in subsequent deeds was described as the manor or lordship of Walgrave *alias* Walgrave Elborough.²

The grant of the church (q.v.) to the monastery of La Charité sur Loire and its daughter house of St. Augustine in Daventry was made with all that belonged to that church, and when the dissolution of St. Augustine's by Clement VII in 1526 was followed by the bestowal of its lands on Cardinal Wolsey for 'Wolsey's Colleges'³ a manor in Walgrave was included among them,⁴ and was surveyed in that year.⁵ In 1532 messuages in Walgrave, in the king's hands by the attainder of Wolsey, were granted to the use of the dean and

had only put six of their own servants into the hospital, allowing them 20s. apiece.¹⁰

The church of *ST. PETER* stands on high ground on the south side of the village and consists of chancel, 36 ft. by 21 ft.; nave of three bays, 49 ft. by 17 ft. 9 in.; north and south aisles, north and south porches, and west tower, 10 ft. 8 in. square, surmounted by a broach spire. There is also a vestry and organ-chamber, 16 ft. 9 in. by 10 ft. 3 in., opening from the south aisle, erected originally as the mortuary chapel of the Langham family, in which was a galleried pew. The south aisle is 10 ft. 8 in. wide, and the north aisle a foot wider. All the above measurements are internal.



chapter of King Henry VIII's College (of Christ Church) in Oxford.⁶

In 1275-6 the Master of the Hospital of St. John of Northampton appears as withholding suit due from a tenement in Walgrave at the hundred court of Orlingbury.⁷

Lands which Sir William Waldegrave and others had of the grant of John Smyth,⁸ late of Walgrave, willed to finding of four poor folk in Waldegrave at the naming and ordering of the said Sir William, were excepted from the lease of Walgrave Manor, granted in 1505 by Sir William Walgrave, to William Lane.⁹ This was presumably the Hospital at Walgrave, concerning which it was stated in 1628, in the cause of Lane *v.* Bawde, that there was a hospital founded in Walgrave by a blacksmith in the reign of Henry VI, with lands producing £140 a year, of which Lady Mallory, 'sometime wife of one of the Lanes, lord of said town', had seized the title-deeds and appropriated the lands. She, however, and Sanders, who bought from Lane, had contributed to the relief of the poor in the hospital; but Paget and Bawde, the later purchasers,

The ground-plan of the church, with the exception of the vestry, is of the 14th century, and the building is a very good example of the architecture of the period. In 1867-8 the spire was partly rebuilt and the church restored, a clerestory added, new high-pitched roofs placed on the nave and chancel, the west window and tower arch opened out, and new seating introduced. The chancel roof is tiled, that of the nave slated, while the aisles have lean-to leaded roofs. The Langham chapel (vestry) was probably added in the latter half of the 17th century, shortly after the family acquired the manor in 1654; it has a straight parapet and opens without an arch to the aisle, the roof of which is continued over it.

The chancel is of three bays, with a two-light window in the two western bays on each side, and a window of three lights in the eastern bay on the south. There was formerly a vestry, or priests' chamber, on the north side, the blocked doorway of which remains. The east window is of five trefoiled lights with reticulated tracery, and the two-light side windows are trefoiled with a quatrefoil in the head. The westernmost on the south

¹ Feet of F. Northants. East. 1657.

² Com. Pleas. Deeds Enr. East. 13 Geo. III; Hil. 14 Geo. III.

³ At Oxford and Ipswich.

⁴ Pat. R. 17 Hen. VIII, pt. 1; *L.* and

P. Hen. VIII, iv, 1913.

⁵ *Ibid.* 2217.

⁶ *Ibid.* v, 1370 (23); Pat. R. 24 Hen. VIII, pt. 2.

⁷ *Hund. R.* (Rec. Com.), i, 12.

⁸ Cf. *Cal. Pat.* 1452-61, p. 261.

⁹ Com. Pleas, Deeds Enr. Hil. 21 Henry VII.

¹⁰ *Lords' Journals*, iii, 780.

has a transom at about a third of its height, below which the openings are subdivided by mullions, making a low-side window of four pointed lights; the sill inside is flat and forms a seat.¹ The sill of the easternmost window, which has cinquefoiled lights, forms also a plain seat, but no piscina remains. In the north wall is a pointed aumbry. A moulded string runs round the chancel at sill level inside and out, and the priest's doorway, below the middle window, is ogee-headed with continuous moulded jambs. All these features are original, but the embattled parapet is said to have been added in 1633 by Bishop Williams,² who held the rectory together with the see of Lincoln. The lofty chancel arch is of two hollow-chamfered orders dying into the wall. Some carved bosses from the former chancel roof have been preserved, one with the rebus of Arthur Wingham, rector (d. 1650).

The arches of the nave arcades are of two chamfered orders springing from pillars of four half-rounds and hollows, with moulded capitals and bases; there are three clerestory windows on each side. The aisle windows are all pointed and of two cinquefoil lights with quatrefoil in the head, except the easternmost in the north aisle which has three lights. At the east end of this aisle, in the usual position, is a trefoil-headed piscina, the bowl of which has been mutilated. The north doorway and the outer arch of its porch are wave-moulded, and the south porch has an outer arch of two hollow-chamfered orders and wall arcades consisting of two pointed arches, supported in the middle by carved heads. Both porches are leaded.

The tower is of three stages, marked by strings, with coupled buttresses to the top of the second stage. It has a moulded plinth, restored west window of two lights, and a narrow pointed doorway on the north side towards the village. The bell-chamber windows are of two trefoiled lights with quatrefoil in the head, and the spire has ribbed angles and two sets of lights on each of the cardinal faces. The tower arch is of three hollow-chamfered orders dying into the wall, and beneath it is a low oak-panelled screen, with carved rail and middle opening. There is no vice.

In the chancel are mural tablets to Montague Lane (d. 1670) and Samuel Harris (d. 1707), and in the floor a brass plate to Arthur Wingham, D.D., rector (d. 1650), a slab marking the place of burial of John Lane (d. 1557) and Elizabeth his wife,³ and in the middle a larger slab with the matrices of the brass of a priest with canopy and marginal inscription.

The font is ancient and consists of a circular bowl with moulded top on a modern pillared stem. The pulpit and other fittings are modern.

In a glazed case in the chancel are kept a chained Bible of 1611 and a 'Book of Homilies', 1676: the case is made up in part from old bench-ends of yew, one of which is carved with a representation of David with the lion and the bear.

There are five bells, the first by Taylor & Co., of

Loughborough, 1867, the second, third, and tenor by Thomas Russell, of Wootton, 1723, and the fourth dated 1766. There is also a medieval sanctus bell inscribed 'Sit nomen Domini Benedictum', but it is unhung.⁴

The plate consists of a silver cup, cover paten, flagon, and bread-holder of 1671, given in 1674 by Sir William Langham.⁵

The registers before 1812 are as follows: (i) all entries 1571-1655; (ii) all entries, imperfect, 1659-81, baptisms 1681-1743, marriages 1695-1707; (iii) baptisms 1743-64, marriages 1721-53, burials 1678-1764; (iv) marriages 1755-1811; (v) baptisms 1762-1801, burials 1765-1801; (vi) baptisms and burials 1802-12; (vii) marriages 1811-13.

To the west of the south porch is the socket and stump of a churchyard cross.

The church was returned in the *ADWOWSON* Taxation of 1291 as then worth £13 6s. 8d. yearly.⁶ The *Valor Ecclesiasticus* of 1535 gave the value of issues from tithes, mansion, and glebe yearly as £22 14s. 10d. At the inclosure of the common lands in 1776 an allotment was made to the rector in respect of three yard lands called the glebe land, with commons thereto belonging.

The advowson was at an early date held with the manor (q.v.), and by Geoffrey Malesoures was granted to St. Augustine's, Daventry.⁷ It was not long, however, before it had passed from that monastery to the bishops of Lincoln,⁸ by whom it was held until in 1852 it was transferred to the Bishop of Peterborough.

On 18 May 1328 Master Ralph de Waldegrave received licence for the alienation in mortmain of 2 messuages, a mill, land, and rent in Walgrave, Holcot, and Northampton to provide a chaplain to celebrate daily in the parish church of Walgrave for the souls of the king, &c., and of members of the de Waldegrave family.⁹ Later, in 1361, the same Master Ralph had licence to give certain tenements in Wold and Northampton in mortmain.¹⁰ That these tenements were either granted in substitution for those previously mentioned, or to supplement them, is indicated by the fact that the provision of a priest in Walgrave church was made a condition in a grant, made before 1501, by one John Smyth to Thomas Spencer and his wife Margaret, of the manor and advowson of Wold.¹¹

Town land. Certain lands in the *CHARITIES* open fields understood to have been purchased with £240 given by John Williams, Bishop of Lincoln, were conveyed to trustees by deeds dated 7 February 1642 for the benefit of the poor. The property consists of 38 acres of land, the yearly rent of which is distributed by the trustees (three in number) in groceries.

Poor's allotment consists of 8 a. 2 r. of land set out on the inclosure for the use of the poor. The charity is administered by the rector and four other trustees who distribute the income in groceries, meat, and coal.

Ch. Bells of Northants. 426.

⁵ Markham, *Ch. Plate of Northants.* 294.

⁶ *Tax. Eccl. (Rec. Com.)*, 39.

⁷ Dugdale, *Mon. Angl.* v, 182.

⁸ Bridges, *Hist. of Northants.* ii, 129. Presentation was made by the monastery in 1217, but in 1295 by the bishop.

⁹ *Col. Pat.* 1327-30, p. 271.

¹⁰ *Abbrev. Rot. Orig. (Rec. Com.)*, ii, 269.

¹¹ *Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2)*, xv, 56.

¹ The window was opened out in 1867. The jambs and thick middle mullion were rebated for two shutters. The height of the sill above the ground outside is 3 ft. 9 in. *Assoc. Arch. Soc. Reports*, xxix.

² The initials I. L. (John Lincoln), together with the date, occur on the parapet on the north side. Bridges says Williams 'embattled the chancel and raised the buttresses against it'; but it would seem more likely that he only restored or rebuilt the buttresses.

³ The marginal inscription is now much worn, but is given by Bridges as 'Here lye the bodies of John Lane Esquier purchaser of Walgrave and Elizabeth his wif which Juhn decessed the iij day of September A^o Dni M^oLVIII and the saide Elizabeth decessed the . . . day of . . . whose solys . . .' For correct date see p. 218.

⁴ The tenor bell is a recasting of one given by John Smith in 1494. Russell cast four bells and recast the tenor in 1723. The inscriptions are given by North,

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Francis Baxter by his will (date unknown) gave an annual sum of 15*s.* to the churchwardens for distribution in bread to the poor. The income is distributed in thirty 6*d.* loaves.

The Charity of John Sheldon founded by will dated 2 July 1812 is regulated by a scheme of the Charity

Commissioners dated 29 September 1916. The endowment consists of stock with the Official Trustees of Charitable Funds producing about £1 16*s.* 8*d.* yearly in dividends, which is distributed by the rector and churchwardens in sums of 5*s.* each to aged poor widows being members of the Church of England.

THE HUNDRED OF WYMERSLEY

CONTAINING THE PARISHES OF

BLISWORTH
BRAFIELD-ON-THE-GREEN
CASTLE ASHBY
COGENHOE
COLLINGTREE
COURTEENHALL
DENTON

GRENDON
HARDINGSTONE
HORTON
GREAT HOUGHTON
LITTLE HOUGHTON
MILTON MALZOR
PIDDINGTON with HACKLETON

PRESTON DEANERY
QUINTON
ROTHERSTHORPE
WHISTON
WOOTTON
YARDLEY HASTINGS

IN the Northamptonshire geld-roll of c. 1074 Wymersley figures as a hundred and a half;¹ but in the Domesday Survey the western portion (including the parishes of Blisworth, Collingtree, Courteenhall, Hardingstone, Milton, and Rothersthorpe, and probably Wootton) constituted the hundred of 'Colentreu' or 'Col-trewestan'.² This subordinate hundred is not mentioned in the 12th-century Survey, in which all the parishes are entered under Wymersley;³ but as late as 1329 'the hundred of Colyngtreston within the hundred of Wymersley' was said to have been formerly leased at 40s., which sum had been raised 20 years before to 10 marks,⁴ and complaint was also made that the inhabitants of the hundred were compelled to attend the three-weekly court of Wymersley; the jurors alleged that this practice first began in the time of Henry III under Henry de Hastings.⁵



WYMERSLEY

MAP OF THE HUNDRED

Wymersley Hundred, of which the original meeting-place was probably at a field called Wymersley Bush in Little Houghton,⁶ apparently belonged in 1086 to the Countess Judith and was certainly held by her representatives, the family of Hastings and their successors, with the manor of Yardley Hastings.⁷ The lordship of the hundred seems to have become divided, possibly when Richard Earl of Kent disposed of his estates, as Richard Fermor owned the hundreds of Towcester and Wymersley when he was attainted in 1540 and recovered them in 1551,⁸ and they descended to his heirs, the Earls of Pomfret,⁹ whose present representative is Lord Hesketh; but Sir William Compton died seised of the hundreds of Hamfordshoe and Wymersley in 1528,¹⁰ as did his grandson Sir Henry, first Lord Compton in 1591.¹¹

¹ *V.C.H. Northants.* i, 296. ² *Ibid.* 305, 337, 345, 347. ³ *Ibid.* 375. ⁴ Assize R. 632, m. 61 d. ⁵ *Ibid.*

⁶ *Place-Names of Northants.* (Engl. P.-N. Soc.), 142. About 1720 the courts were held at Cotton End in Hardingstone: Bridges, *Northants.* i, 334. ⁷ *Ibid.* ⁸ *Cal. Pat.* 1550-3, p. 22.

⁹ Bridges, loc. cit.: Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), cccxxv, 9; Recov. R. Trin. 33 Geo. III, ro. 360.

¹⁰ Bridges, loc. cit.

¹¹ Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), ccxxix, 130.

A HISTORY OF NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

BLISWORTH

Blidesworde (xi cent.); Bliseworthe (xii cent.); Bledsworth, Blithesworth (xiii cent.); Blysworth, Blesworth (xiv cent.).

The parish of Blisworth covers 1,980 acres; the soil varies from a strong clay to a light mixed soil and towards the wood a black loam. The parish abounds with limestone and ironstone; large quantities of the latter have been removed for the ore. The land yields excellent crops. The population is close on 800. A railway station on the main line of the L.M.S. lies about three-quarters of a mile from the village. For ten years (until the branch line was constructed under the act of 1843) Blisworth was the station for Northampton. The Grand Union Canal runs through Blisworth and passes to the neighbouring parish of Stoke Bruerne through a tunnel $1\frac{3}{4}$ miles in length. This tunnel was built in 1806 and the contractor—who was known as ‘Barnes of Banbury’—was a man who could neither read nor write; he carried out all his calculations and estimates by strength of memory.

The village contains many 17th- and early-18th-century houses, mostly of mingled freestone and ironstone, with thatched or slated roofs. A barn with steep-pitched roof at the east end of the village has a panel in the gable inscribed ‘1663 G.B.’ A few of the houses retain their mullioned windows, but in most cases the windows have been altered.

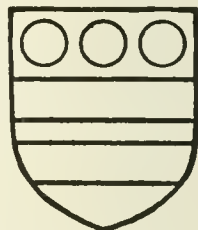
There is a Baptist chapel in the village, built in 1825, a residence for the minister and a graveyard being added in 1865, and a lecture hall in 1885.

At the time of the Domesday Survey *MANOR* William Peverel held $3\frac{1}{2}$ hides in *BLISWORTH*.¹ On his death in 1114 the land passed to his son William Peverel, who held at the time of the Northamptonshire Survey.² He forfeited his lands for treason, and at Michaelmas 1157 the king granted to Robert de Peissi land in Blisworth and Newbottle of the annual value of £43.³ In 1181 his son Robert held Blisworth,⁴ but the next year he was succeeded by William son of Robert.⁵ In 1189 Richard I granted the overlordship of Blisworth to his brother John Count of Mortain, who held the manor until 1194 when the king resumed possession of the honor of Peverel. At that time Matthew de Clere held Newbottle and Blisworth, of the yearly value of £43.⁶ In 1199 the king granted to William de Ferrers, Earl of Derby, the grandson of Margaret, heiress of William Peverel the younger, the overlordship of the hundred of Higham, Blisworth, and Newbottle, in return for the payment of 2,000 marks.⁷ Isabel, widow of Robert de Peissi, sued the Earl of Ferrers for these estates, but the case was dismissed as Isabel had no right in the land except by her husband, who had it by grant of Henry II when the honor of Peverel was in his hands.⁸ William de Ferrers died in 1247 and was succeeded by his son William Earl of Derby, who died in 1254 leaving a

son Robert, who was born in 1239. He received livery of his lands in 1260 but forfeited them six years later, when the honor of Peverel was granted to Edmund Earl of Lancaster, and became incorporated in the duchy of Lancaster.

William Earl of Derby granted the manor of Blisworth and the advowson of the church to William Briwerre, to be held as half a fee, the grant being confirmed by King John in 1199.⁹ The next year Briwerre was given leave to assart 60 acres of woodland at Blisworth.¹⁰ In 1212 he was granted timber from the forest of Leicestershire to build a cellar and chamber at Blisworth,¹¹ and the following year had a licence to cultivate 30 acres more woodland, quit of the regard.¹² In 1220 he was granted 24 trunks for posts and squared beams and 2 crooks from Salcey Forest for rebuilding his houses at Blisworth.¹³ On his death in 1227 the manor descended to his son William, who died in 1232, Blisworth being allotted to his widow Joan in dower.¹⁴ The next year the manor was assigned to William de Percy in the name of his daughters, the coheirs of a fifth of the property of William Briwerre.¹⁵ Joan seems to have retained possession of the manor, however, which descended on her death in 1265¹⁶ to Sir Baldwin Wake, the grandson of Isabel de Briwerre, sister and coheir of William and wife of Baldwin Wake of Bourne. He took part with the barons against Henry III, for which offence the king granted his manor of Blisworth to Alan Plugenet, who held it in 1266.¹⁷ Sir Baldwin probably redeemed it under the award of Kenilworth, and held view of frankpledge and other privileges there in 1276.¹⁸

Sir Baldwin is said to have died on 4 February 1282,¹⁹ and on 20 July the king committed the manor, which was valued at £32 8s., to Philip Burnel.²⁰ Baldwin's son and heir John by his second wife, Hawise de Quincy, being a minor, the king granted the custody of his lands in Northamptonshire to Edmund Earl of Cornwall, on 27 October 1282.²¹ The next year Hawise Wake brought an action against the earl claiming that she and her husband had been seised of the manor jointly, but the case was dismissed as the joint conveyance had not been properly carried out.²² John came of age in January 1295,²³ and before his death in 1300 enfeoffed his uncle Sir Hugh Wake of Deeping in the half fee in Blisworth, reserving to himself the advowson of the church and an annual rent of £10 from the manor.²⁴ At his death in 1315²⁵ Sir Hugh Wake was succeeded by his son Thomas, who was granted free warren in Blisworth on 22 February 1330.²⁶ In the same year he defended his right to



WAKE. Or two bars gules with three roundels gules in the chief.

¹ *V.C.H. Northants.* i, 337.

² *Ibid.* 375.

³ *Farrer, Honors and Knights' Fees*, i, 240.

⁴ *Pipe R.* 27 *Hen. II* (Pipe R. Soc.), 14.

⁵ *Pipe R.* 28 *Hen. II* (Pipe R. Soc.), 19.

⁶ *Pipe R.* 6 *Ric. I* (Pipe R. Soc.), 86.

⁷ *Pipe R.* 1 *John* (Pipe R. Soc.), 16.

⁸ *Rot. Cur. Regis*, 1194-9, ii, 178.

⁹ *Rot. Chart.* (Rec. Com.), i, pt. i, 28.

¹⁰ *Ibid.* i, pt. i, 73.

¹¹ *Rot. Lit. Claus.* (Rec. Com.), i, 117.

¹² *Ibid.* 155.

¹³ *Close R.* 1231-4, p. 227.

¹⁴ *Ibid.* p. 229.

¹⁵ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* i, 597.

¹⁶ *Cal. Pat.* 1258-66, p. 622.

¹⁷ *Rot. Hund.* (Rec. Com.), ii, 8. Sir

Baldwin apparently granted Blisworth to Sir Reynold de Evermue for his life, in exchange for Kelby, Lincs.: *Cal. Inq. p.m.*

ii, 262.

¹⁸ *V.C.H. Northants. Families*, p. 317;

Cal. Inq. p.m. ii, 439.

¹⁹ *Cal. Pat.* 1281-92, p. 30.

²⁰ *Cal. Close*, 1279-88, p. 170.

²¹ *Abbrev. Plac.* (Rec. Com.), 275.

²² *Cal. Close*, 1288-96, p. 436.

²³ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* iii, 425.

²⁴ *Cal. Fine*, ii, 264.

²⁵ *Cal. Chart.* 1327-41, p. 159.



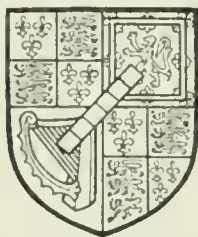
BLISWORTH: BARGE ON THE GRAND UNION CANAL



BLISWORTH: THE VILLAGE

view of frankpledge in the manor.¹ He married Elizabeth daughter and heir of Hugh Cransley, and was succeeded about 1346² by his son Sir Thomas Wake, the husband of Alice sister and co-heir of William de Pateshull.³ He was living in September 1379,⁴ but probably died soon after, leaving Blisworth to his wife for her lifetime. On her death in 1398 she was succeeded by her grandson Thomas, the eldest surviving son of her son Thomas,⁵ who had died in August 1383.⁶ He was married to Margaret Philipot, the sister of Sir John Philipot, citizen and grocer of London, to whom Richard II had granted the lands and marriage of Sir Thomas Wake's heir in September 1383.⁷ Thomas Wake died before 1425, and the manor passed to his son Thomas, who was then about 23 years old.⁸ He married Agnes daughter and heir of Thomas Lovell of Clevedon, Somerset, and died on 10 September 1458,⁹ being succeeded by his son Thomas, who was born about 1434. By his first wife, whose name is not known, he had two or three sons, the eldest of whom, Roger, succeeded him on his death in May 1476.¹⁰ As a follower of Richard III he was attainted by Henry VII, his manor of Blisworth being granted to Sir James Blount.¹¹ His lands were subsequently restored by Act of Parliament in 1487.¹² He died 16 March 1504 leaving the manor of Blisworth to his wife Elizabeth daughter of Sir William Catesby of Ashby Ledgers, during her lifetime.¹³ She then married Sir John Grey, fourth son of Thomas Marquess of Dorset, and was succeeded by her son Thomas Wake, who sold Blisworth manor to Sir Richard Knightley of Fawsley in 1522 or 1523.¹⁴ Sir Richard died in December 1535 leaving Blisworth to his younger son Sir Edmund Knightley and Ursula his wife.¹⁵ They granted the manor to Henry VIII in 1542, in exchange for other property,¹⁶ and it was incorporated in the newly created honour of Grafton.¹⁷ The stewardship of the manor was granted to Sir John Williams in 1545.¹⁸

In 1592 or 1593 the site of the manor was granted to Thomas Andrew of Charwelton,¹⁹ whose grandson Thomas was living there in 1618.²⁰ In 1628 Blisworth, with ten other manors, was conveyed to Sir Francis Crane, the manager of the Mortlake tapestry works, as security for a loan of £7,500 advanced to the Crown.²¹ Seven years later the site of the manor was leased to Sir Robert Cooke for a period of thirty-one years.²² In a survey of Crown estates made in 1660 Blisworth is noted as containing 894½ acres of arable land, 405 acres of pasture, and no meadowland.²³ On the expiration of Cooke's lease in 1665 Charles II granted the manor with much other property to Denzil Lord Hollis, Philip Earl of Chesterfield, and five others.²⁴



FITZROY, Duke of Grafton. The arms of King Charles II with the difference of a sinister baston gobony argent and azure.

In 1673, however, Blisworth was given by the king to Henry Earl of Arlington, with remainder to his son-in-law Henry Fitzroy,²⁵ who succeeded on his death in 1685. He was created Duke of Grafton in 1675, and Blisworth remained in the hands of his descendants until 1919, when most of the Northamptonshire estates of the Dukes of Grafton were sold.

The church of *ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST* consists of chancel, 30 ft. 4 in. by 18 ft. 8 in.; clerestoried nave, 61 ft. 6 in. by 18 ft. 8 in.; north *CHURCH* and south aisles, 11 ft. 6 in. wide; north porch, and west tower, 9 ft. 10 in. by 9 ft. 6 in., all these measurements being internal. The north aisle is the full length of the five bays of the nave, but the south aisle²⁶ is of three bays only. The width across nave and aisles is 47 ft. 2 in.

The building generally is of roughly coursed limestone, mingled in the tower with local ironstone. The roofs of the chancel and nave are slated, those of the aisles leaded, and the porch is covered with modern tiles. There are straight parapets to the chancel and aisles: the nave roof overhangs. Internally, except in the tower, all the walls are plastered.

The church was restored in 1855–6 when a gallery was removed and the pews converted into open benches, and in 1871 the floors were paved with encaustic tiles. The south aisle was rebuilt in 1926.

The chancel and the three eastern bays of the nave belong to a late-13th-century aisled church, the nave and north aisle of which were extended westward, the aisle being rebuilt, and perhaps widened, about 1320–30. The tower followed later in the 14th century. The south aisle appears to be its original width, having a chapel at its east end separated from the rest by a 13th-century transverse arch, and roofed at right angles to the nave with a gable to the south. The north and south²⁷ doorways are also of 13th-century date with edge rolls. With the exception of the porch, which seems to have been added or rebuilt in the 15th century, no further change in the plan was subsequently made. In the 15th century, however, new windows were inserted in the chancel and the clerestory erected or reconstructed.

The chancel is of two bays and has two 13th-century windows on the south side, the south wall being substantially of that period, but in the 14th century the east and north walls were either wholly rebuilt or refaced. The pointed five-light east window has tracery of an unusual type,²⁸ which is probably of this date, and the angle buttresses are placed diagonally: a chamfered plinth and string occur only on the north and east. On the north side the two bays are equal, each containing a 15th-century pointed window of three cinquefoiled lights with vertical tracery, and a blocked doorway in the western bay, but on the south side the bays are unequal in size. Of the two earlier pointed windows in the south wall the easternmost is of two uncusped pointed lights with a trefoiled circle in the head, and

¹ *Plac. de Quo Warr.* (Rec. Com.), 551.

² *Cal. Pat.* 1345–8, p. 60.

³ *Cal. Fine.* vii, 119.

⁴ *J.C.H. Northants. Families*, p. 320.

⁵ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 22 Ric. II, no. 50.

⁶ *Cal. Fine.* x, 4.

⁷ *Ibid.*

⁸ *Fine R.* 3 Hen. VI, m. 5.

⁹ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 37 Hen. VI, no. 19.

¹⁰ *J.C.H. Northants. Families*, p. 321.

¹¹ *Cal. Pat.* 1485–94, p. 231.

¹² *Rolls of Parl.* vi, 393.

¹³ *Cal. Inq. Hen. VII*, ii, 847.

¹⁴ Knightley family evidences, cited by Bridges, *Hist. Northants.* i, 335.

¹⁵ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), lvii, 2.

¹⁶ *L. and P. Hen. VIII*, xvii, g. 285 (6).

¹⁷ *Stat. of the Realm*, 33 Hen. VIII, cap. 38.

¹⁸ *L. and P. Hen. VIII*, xx (1), p. 675.

¹⁹ *Pat.* 35 Eliz. pt. 6.

²⁰ Metcalf, *Visit. Northants.* 63.

²¹ *Cal. S.P. Dom.* 1627–8, p. 585.

²² *Pat.* 11 Chas. I, pt. 13.

²³ Lennard, *Rural Northamptonshire*, p. 126.

²⁴ *Pat.* 17 Chas. II, pt. 9, no. 1.

²⁵ *Pat.* 25 Chas. II, pt. 8.

²⁶ Its length from the east is 39 ft. 2 in.

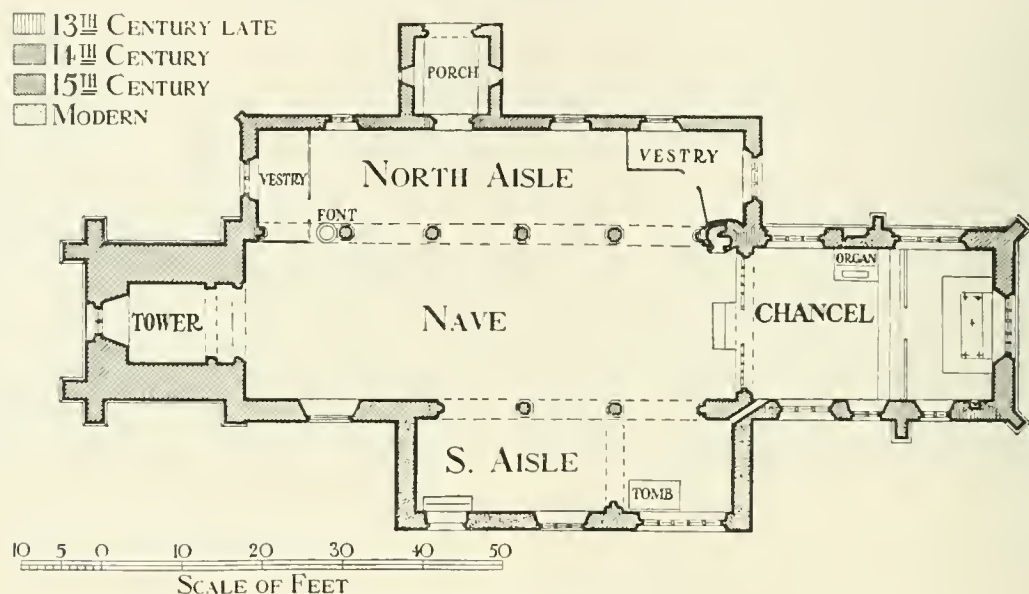
²⁷ The south doorway, however, is wholly restored.

²⁸ It is wholly restored but reproduces the original design.

A HISTORY OF NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

has double-chamfered jambs and a hood-mould. In character it is earlier than the other, which is also of two lights but with a forked mullion and the jambs have an outer hollow chamfer; but the whole of the earlier work in the church is of a type that seems to have prevailed in Northamptonshire from about 1260 to 1300 and even later, which it is difficult to date accurately without documentary evidence. Further west, its sill considerably higher than the others, is an inserted 15th-century three-light window like those opposite, and at a lower level in the south-west angle of the chancel a plain rectangular low-side window, now blocked.¹ In the wall opposite, at the north-west angle, is a smaller blocked low-side opening of 15th-

The late-13th-century south arcade of the nave consists of three pointed arches of two chamfered orders, with hood-mould on each side, springing from octagonal pillars with moulded capitals and bases and from responds of similar character. The bases have a double roll, except that of the west respond which is not moulded, and the capitals differ slightly in detail, that of the westernmost pillar having a band of small trefoils and quatrefoils below the abacus. The three corresponding arches of the slightly earlier north arcade are of the same general character, but the bases are chamfered and on square plinths and the capitals are less in height. When the arcade was extended westward the old respond was re-used and two new pillars



PLAN OF BLISWORTH CHURCH

century date, with trefoiled head and rectangular hood-mould, splaying widely to the east inside.² The late-13th-century piscina has a plain double hollow-chamfered recess and projecting fluted bowl supported by a shaft with moulded capital. There are no sedilia. At the south-west angle of the chancel is a squint, now blocked, from the aisle.³ The low, widespread chancel arch is a 14th-century reconstruction contemporary with the western extension of the nave; it is of two chamfered orders, the inner on half-octagonal responds with moulded capitals and bases. There is a good 15th-century oak chancel screen with traceried openings, plain bottom panels, and moulded top. The stalls have been much restored. The baluster altar rails are apparently of late-17th-century date. The chancel roof is modern.⁴ The 15th-century rood-loft stair remains in a very perfect condition on the north side of the chancel arch at the east end of the nave arcade, the wall being thickened for the purpose. The lower doorway is four-centred, and the upper one square-headed with a battlemented moulding.⁵

and arches erected. The new bays carried on the general design, but the mouldings of the capitals and bases indicate their later date.

The south aisle is without buttresses, and though rebuilt preserves much of its former character. The arch dividing the chapel at its east end from the rest of the aisle is of two chamfered orders, springing from the easternmost pier of the arcade and from a respond with moulded capital. The chapel is lighted at the south end by a large square-headed window of five lights with moulded jambs and mullions,⁶ below which, inside, is a late wall recess with flat moulded ogee arch.⁷ A former piscina has disappeared. The aisle is also lighted by a modern pointed two-light window, to the west of which is the doorway. In the south wall of the nave, between the aisle and the tower, is a pointed window originally of three lights the mullions of which have been removed.

The north aisle has a small diagonal buttress at the north-west angle, and is lighted by three windows in the north wall and one at each end. The east window

lighted by two small openings (now blocked) on the north side.

⁶ The window is an old one re-used. It may have been originally pointed, and its head cut off when the roof of the chapel was flattened, perhaps in the 17th century.

⁷ It is 6 ft. 6 in. wide, but is not centrally placed in the wall. It may be of 16th-century date.

¹ *Assoc. Arch. Soc. Rep.* xxix, 384, where it is figured. The opening is 2 ft. 8 in. high and 2 ft. 2 in. wide, simply chamfered, with a low segmental head inside. The sill is about 2 ft. above the ground.

² *Ibid.* 386. Inside it is covered by a flat stone. The height of the opening is 2 ft. 7 in. and the width 12 in., splaying

out to 5 ft. 4 in.

³ The opening in the aisle is 11 in. wide and 2 ft. 3 in. high. It communicated with the sill of the low-side window.

⁴ It was formerly of low pitch, but has been heightened.

⁵ Its sill is immediately below the spring of the chancel arch. The newel staircase has seventeen steps, and was

is square-headed and of three trefoiled lights, apparently a 15th-century insertion, and that at the west end is also square-headed but of two lights, and it has been altered and the lower part blocked. The small pointed window in the north wall west of the porch is of two trefoiled lights with double-chamfered jambs and hood-mould, but the mullions of the two larger ones east of the porch have been renewed. The late-13th-century pointed doorway has a continuous moulding. The east end of the aisle is screened off for a vestry.

The porch has a high-pitched roof with a coped gable at each end, standing above the aisle roof, and a pointed outer arch with continuous mouldings; in the gable above is a stone inscribed 'A.D. 1607, W.D., C.M.'

The clerestory has three widely spaced four-centred windows of two cinquefoiled lights on each side, placed without respect to the arches below. The modern timber roof of the nave is of six bays.

The tower is of three stages divided by strings, with moulded plinth and pairs of four-stage buttresses at its western angles reaching to the top of the second stage, above which there are small diagonal buttresses. In the bottom stage is a restored pointed west window of two trefoiled lights, but the north and south sides are blank. The middle stage has a small trefoiled opening on each side, that on the north now covered by a clock dial, and the pointed bell-chamber windows are of two trefoiled lights with a quatrefoil in the head. The tower terminates in a battlemented parapet without pinnacles. There is no vice. The pointed arch to the nave is of two continuous chamfered orders with hood-mould on the east side and a single order on the west.

The font is ancient and consists of a plain circular bucket-shaped bowl¹ on a cylindrical pedestal and base, and octagonal step.²

The wooden pulpit is modern. The royal arms of George III (before 1801) are over the tower arch.

There are portions of medieval glass in the tracery of the north-west window of the chancel.³

The table tomb of Roger Wake (d. 1503-4) and his wife Elizabeth Catesby is below the south window of the chapel, in front of the arched wall recess, and is of freestone with a Purbeck marble slab on top. The sides are panelled with shields of arms. On the slab are the brasses of Roger and his wife, with groups of seven sons and three daughters below, a shield in each angle, and a brass inscription round the verge as follows: 'Here lyeth Roger Wake Esquier Lorde of Blysworthe in the countie of Northampton and Elyzabeth his wyffe . . . which Roger decessyd the xvj day of March the yere of our Lord God M^o cccclij, on whose soule Ihu have m'cy.'⁴

¹ It diminishes about 3 in. in diameter in a height of 15 in.

² The base or pedestal is equal in diameter to the bottom of the bowl and is 14½ in. high over all, on a 3 in. step. The font stands against the west side of the north-west pillar of the nave. One of the staples remains. The cover is modern.

³ They include a figure of the B. Virgin and four others (all imperfect), fragments of lettering, and some tabernacle work. Bridges (c. 1720) says that in the north windows of the chancel were small portraits of the twelve apostles, 'four of which still remain complete': *Hist. of Northants.* i, 337.

⁴ F. Hudson, *Brasses of Northants.* Both figures hold their hands in the atti-

tude of prayer. The man is bareheaded, with long hair and in plate armour; the woman in a pedimental cap with veil, and tight-bodied full skirted gown.

⁵ She was the wife of Lyonell Blackey, esquire, one of the sergeants of arms to Queen Elizabeth and King James. The inscription records that 'she lived a maid eighteen years, a wife twenty and a widow sixty-one, and dyed the 20th of Jan^y 1673 in the 99th year of her age'.

⁶ North, *Ch. Bells of Northants.* 194, where the inscriptions are given. The former treble bell was by Bartholomew Atton 1626, and the tenor by Henry Bagley 1663. In Bridges' time there was a priest's bell dated 1635. In 1552 there

in the chancel are wall monuments to Margaret Blackey⁵ (d. 1673) and Rebeckah Yates (d. 1679), wife of Jonathan Yates, rector. In the nave is a memorial to twenty-three men of the parish who fell in the war of 1914-18.

There is a scratch dial on the west jamb of the low-side window on the south side of the chancel.

There is a ring of five bells, the second and third by Bartholomew Atton of Buckingham 1624, the fourth by Henry Bagley III 1713, and the first and fifth by Thomas Eayre of Kettering 1758.⁶

The plate consists of a cup of 1570, a 17th-century paten (c. 1636), a cup and paten of 1845, an alms dish of 1846, and a flagon of 1870.⁷

The registers before 1812 are as follows: (i) all entries 1545-January 1703-4; (ii) baptisms and burials Sept. 1705-71, marriages till 1753; (iii) marriages 1754-1812; (iv) baptisms and burials 1772-1812. The entries in the first volume are imperfect till about 1557.

On the north side of the church, by the path leading to the porch, are the steps and socket-stone of a churchyard cross.⁸

The right of presentation to the church was granted to William Briwerre by the Earl of Derby, and confirmed by King John in 1199. The advowson passed with the manor to Sir Baldwin Wake on the death of Joan Briwerre. When his son John conveyed the manor to his uncle Hugh Wake he retained the advowson and the rent of £10 from the manor. The advowson and rent passed to his sister and heir Margaret, wife of Edmund of Woodstock, Earl of Kent, whose son John Earl of Kent died seised of them in 1352.⁹ His heir was his sister Joan, 'the Fair Maid of Kent', wife of Sir Thomas de Holand and secondly of Edward Prince of Wales. She died in 1385 seised of the rent and advowson,¹⁰ which passed to her son Thomas de Holand, Earl of Kent. He died in 1397,¹¹ and his son Thomas was charged with high treason in 1399. The advowson had, however, been assigned to his mother Alice in dower in 1398 and she died in possession of it in 1416.¹² Her heirs were her five grand-daughters; one of these was Eleanor Countess of March, who predeceased her, leaving as heir a son Edmund Earl of March, who died seised of one fifth of the advowson in 1425 leaving three co-heirs;¹³ but Joan, widow of Thomas Earl of Kent, died in possession of the advowson in 1442, held in dower by assignment of the heirs of Alice. Her heir was Humphrey Earl of Stafford, her brother's son.¹⁴ The advowson probably reverted to the crown when his great grandson Edward Duke of Buckingham,

were three great bells and a sanctus bell.

⁷ Markham, *Ch. Plate of Northants.* 35. The modern cup, paten, and alms dish were given by the Rev. William Barry, rector, in 1846.

⁸ Markham, *Stone Crosses of Northants.* 20, where it is figured. The cross consists of a calvary of four steps, 7 ft. square at bottom, and a socket-stone 2 ft. square. There was at one time a sundial erected in the socket, but it has been removed.

⁹ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* x, pp. 53-4.

¹⁰ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 9 Ric. II, no. 54.

¹¹ *Ibid.* 20 Ric. II, no. 30.

¹² *Ibid.* 4 Hen. V, no. 51.

¹³ *Ibid.* 3 Hen. VI, no. 32.

¹⁴ *Ibid.* 21 Hen. VI, no. 36.

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Earl of Stafford, was attained in 1523. The advowson was granted to Sir Christopher Hatton in May 1579,¹ and remained in the possession of his family until the 19th century. The living was in the gift of the Rev. W. Barry, the rector of Blisworth, and his descendants from 1839 to 1930, but was then acquired by the governors of Canford School, Dorset.

In 1504 Roger Wake left some land *CHARITIES* in Bedfordshire for the foundation of a chantry in the chapel of St. Mary the Virgin, the chaplain of which was also to keep a free grammar school in the village. The school was called Roger Wake's Chauntre and Free School, and at the confiscation of the chantry lands was continued by the warrant of the Chantry Commissioners, with a fixed stipend of £11 charged on the revenues of the Crown. All trace of a grammar school had disappeared by the beginning of the 19th century, and the stipend has

ever since been attached to the salary of an elementary schoolmaster.²

On the inclosure of the parish an allotment of land was assigned in lieu of lands formerly appropriated to the repair of the church. The present rental amounts to about £20.

Jane Leeson by her will proved in 1649 charged certain lands with payments for the poor of many places (including £1 10s. a year for Blisworth) to be distributed by the rector, churchwardens, and overseers of the several towns and villages. This sum is now distributed to the poor by the rector and four trustees appointed by the Parish Council of Blisworth.

Maria Anne Westley by her will proved 3 March 1931 bequeathed the net proceeds of her 3 messuages to the trustees of the Blisworth Baptist chapel, to apply the income towards the stipend of the minister of the said chapel. The endowment is now represented by £139 11s. 9d. 3½% War Stock.

BRAFIELD-ON-THE-GREEN

Brache(s)fild (xi cent.); Bragefeld (xi-xii cent.); Brachafeldia (xii cent.); Branfeld (xii-xiii cent.); Bramfeld (xii-xvi cent.); Braumpfeld (xiv cent.); Bradfield on the Green (xiv-xvii cent.); Brafield (xiv-xix cent.); Bravefield Green (xviii cent.).

The parish of Brafield-on-the-Green, comprising 1,282 acres of land and water, lies to the east of Little Houghton parish, both narrow strips of territory terminated on the north by the River Nene. The Nene is crossed at Billing Bridge by the road coming south from Billing; it intersects in the middle of the village the Northampton to Bedford road, and forms the boundary between Brafield and Little Houghton. Brafield Holme was amalgamated with Little Houghton in 1884.³ The population, which was 303, living in 70 houses, in 1720,⁴ had risen to 525 by 1921 and has since declined to 486 in the civil parish.⁵ The soil is marl and loam, the subsoil Great Oolite with Upper and Middle Lias by the Nene; the chief crops are wheat and barley. The ground rises from 170 ft. in the river valley to 374 ft. in the south. The village, on the rising ground to the north, stands near the Northampton road, with its church as an outpost on the north, 4½ miles south-east of Northampton. A stone-built house near the village pond has on one of its dormer windows the initials and date 1st w 1635. The present Parsonage, which bears the date 1697 and initials T.T.E., on the Smythe estate, was made over to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners in 1936; it is said to have been originally a public house. The fair followed the feast of St. Laurence.⁶

Bridges recorded that the meadows lay intermixed with those of Little Houghton, as did all the lands in the field. The common was divided by a decree in Chancery and the road was the boundary; 'Brayfield Common' was then covered with furze, and the lord of the manor had three-quarters, called farm-furze.⁷

Two fees are found in *BRAFIELD* in *MANOR* 1086: (1) that of Odo Bishop of Bayeux (already forfeited), who received 3 virgates there that Ulf son of Azor held in King Edward's time.

William was under-tenant in 1086. (2) That of the Countess Judith, who also claimed, and apparently obtained, Odo's estate. She held 3 virgates in demesne, the soke of a house, and 5 acres of land belonging to Whiston (q.v.) and the soke of 1 virgate that Winemar the Fleming held.⁸ Both overlordship and under-tenancy descended with the manor of Little Houghton (q.v.).

In 1480 John Lord Scrope by right of Elizabeth his wife received £4 yearly from the profits of the manor.⁹

The church of *ST. LAURENCE CHURCH* stands on the north side of the village and consists of chancel, 28 ft. 3 in. by 17 ft. 8 in.; nave, 36 ft. 9 in. by 20 ft.; north and south aisles respectively 11 ft. and 10 ft. 3 in. wide; south porch, and west tower 12 ft. square, all these measurements being internal. The width across nave and aisles is 45 ft. 6 in. There is no clerestory.

The chancel was rebuilt in 1848, and the north aisle and its arcade in 1850. Externally, with the exception of the tower and south aisle, all the walling is modern and in the style of the 14th century, the old chancel and north aisle having apparently been of that period. The windows in the south aisle also are modern, and in the same style. The porch was rebuilt in 1911. The roofs of the nave and aisles are slated, and those of the chancel and porch tiled. There are straight parapets to the chancel and north aisle, but the roofs of the nave and south aisle overhang. All the roofs are new. The tower has been repaired at different times and is strengthened by iron rods in both directions: its older walling is of roughly coursed limestone rubble, but ironstone is used in the buttresses and dressings of the later upper stage. The walling of the south aisle is of limestone and ironstone mingled. Internally all the walls are plastered.

The lower part of the tower is of late-12th-century date, and the south arcade in its original form was apparently of the same period, but was altered, or perhaps wholly reconstructed in the 13th century. The moulded bases of the north arcade are alone ancient

¹ Pat. 21 Eliz. pt. 2.

² For further details see *V.C.H. Northants.* ii, 229-30.

³ Kelly, *Northants.* (1931). Local

Govt. Board Order 14,660.

⁴ Bridges, *Hist. Northants.* i, 338.

⁵ Census, 1931. ⁶ Bridges, op. cit. 341.

⁷ Loc. cit. A copy of the decree *penes*

Northants. Rec. Soc.

⁸ *V.C.H. Northants.* i, 308b, 319a, 351b, 354b.

⁹ Anct. D. (P.R.O.), A. 8336.

and are similar to those opposite, and if the new work is a copy of the old, the original north arcade must have been contemporary with that on the south. There has, however, been so much renewal that the development of the plan is obscure. In the late 14th century the tower was given a new bell-chamber stage, which necessitated the erecting of buttresses, and the chancel and aisles were probably rebuilt.

The modern chancel is of two bays with diagonal angle buttresses and a pointed east window of three trefoiled lights with decorated tracery. All the other windows in both chancel and aisles are of similar character but of two lights. The arch to the nave was rebuilt at the same time and is of two chamfered orders. No ancient ritual arrangements have been retained.

The nave arcades consist of three pointed arches, of two chamfered orders on the nave side and a single order towards the aisles. The north arcade, as already stated, is entirely modern except for the moulded bases of the pillars and responds. The south arcade is of more than usual interest, presenting considerable variety of detail. The arches spring at each end from half-octagonal responds with carved capitals (renewed or modern) of conventional foliage, and moulded bases. The easternmost pillar is circular, with moulded base and carved capital, the abacus of which is square with the angles cut off; on three sides the capital displays the incurved volute, or water-leaf, but on the north side, towards the nave, it is carved with a flat-band interlacing pattern. The westernmost pillar is of a well-developed 13th-century character, composed of clustered shafts on a square plan, those at the angles being keel-shaped, and the capital has a square abacus similar to that of the first pillar, though the general character of the pillar is some years later. The capital has a human head at each angle and on three sides is carved with stiff-leaf and slightly more natural foliage. On the east side is represented a serpent in coil and a small cat-like animal, apparently meant to be hiding behind the foliage;¹ the carving is vigorous and naturalistic. In the modern north arcade both pillars are circular and the responds half-rounds.²

No ancient features remain internally in either aisle; the lower parts of the jambs of the pointed south doorway alone are original.

There are scratch dials on the faces of the two buttresses of the south aisle east of the porch.

The tower is of three stages, the later bell-chamber stage having pointed windows of two trefoiled lights with transoms, and a sexfoil opening in the head. The older work below is of very plain character with few architectural features, the north side being blank in both stages. On the south side the lower part of the wall thickens out in a series of set-offs, in which is a small round-headed doorway.³ Above, at the top of

the second stage, is a small round-headed chamfered window with hood and head-stops, and on the east side, above the nave roof, a small plain pointed opening. On the west the second stage is blank, but on the ground floor the wall is pierced by two square-headed windows, one on each side of a middle buttress, which appear to be insertions of a late date.⁴ The massive diagonal buttresses are taken to the height of the second stage, but that against the west wall is less in height. The tower terminates in a battlemented parapet with angle pinnacles. There is no vice. The arch to the nave is modern. It is filled by an oak screen erected in 1892, the ground floor of the tower forming a vestry.

The font is modern, with a circular bowl elaborately carved in 'late Norman' style. The pulpit is also modern or an 18th-century pulpit remodelled, with plain oak panels.

The organ is at the east end of the south aisle. There are no monuments. At the west end of the nave is a 'shrine' in memory of twelve men of the parish who fell in the war of 1914-19.

There is a ring of five bells. The fourth and fifth are dated 1676, the first and third are by Henry Bagley II of Ecton, 1699, and the second by Thomas Russell of Wootton, Bedfordshire, 1732.⁵

The plate consists of a silver cup and paten made in Birmingham 1852, and a plated cup, flagon, and alms dish given in 1838. There is also a pewter flagon.⁶

The registers before 1812 are as follows: (i) all entries 1653-73; (ii) 1677-1764; (iii) baptisms and burials 1765-1812; (iv) marriages 1754-1812.⁷

Simon de Senlis I who died before
ADVOVSON 1113 gave to his foundation of St.

Andrew's Priory, Northampton, with the consent of Maud his wife, the church of Brafield and 1 virgate here.⁸ The advowson remained in the hands of the priory until its surrender in 1538.⁹

The priory held the church appropriated and a perpetual vicarage was ordained about 1325.¹⁰ In 1291 the church was valued at £10,¹¹ and in 1535 the rectory was farmed at £11 and the vicarage was worth £6 13s. 4d.¹² The advowson descended with that of Little Houghton (q.v.) to which it became annexed.¹³ Before 1225 the vicar Warner, with the prior's subsequent confirmation, gave some free tenement of the church land to his daughter Alice in marriage.¹⁴

In 1538 the *RECTOR* was leased to Sir William Parr of Horton,¹⁵ and in 1550 to Ralph Sherman, yeoman of the Ewery.¹⁶ It apparently remained in the hands of the Crown but came, with the rectory of Little Houghton, into the possession of Stanley and Payne who in 1594 sold both to Lord Zouche, and Lord Zouche sold Brafield rectory to William Ward.¹⁷ It then descended in his family. In 1671 William Ward of Brafield conveyed it to Edmund Neale, presumably

¹ There seems no reason to assign any symbolic meaning to the carvings.

² The capitals of the pillars are carved with foliage of early-13th-century type, that of the east respond with flat-band interlacing, while the capital of the west respond is scalloped; all this work is modern, but may be a copy of the old.

³ It is quite plain, the head of eight vousoirs without hood-mould.

⁴ Perhaps in the 17th century. One of them has a stone head with moulding at top and wrought stone jambs; the other has a wooden lintel and the jambs are un-

wrought. They may be reconstructions of older windows.

⁵ North, *Ch. Bells of Northants.* 201, where the inscriptions are given. From the evidence of the stops the fourth and fifth bells appear to have been cast by Henry Bagley I of Chacombe. In 1552 there were three great bells and one sanctus bell.

⁶ Markham, *Ch. Plate of Northants.* 43.

⁷ Bridges, writing about 1720, stated that the register 'bore date 1564': *Ilist. of Northants.* i, 339.

⁸ Dugdale, *Mon.* v, 185; Cott. MS.

Vesp. E. xvii, fols. 63, 289; *Cal. Chart. R.* iv, 118-19.

⁹ *Cal. Pat.* 1345-8, p. 420; 1348-50, p. 210.

¹⁰ Cott. MS. Vesp. E. xvii, fol. 64.

¹¹ *Tax. Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), 38.

¹² *Mahr Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), iv, 314, 330.

¹³ The Crown presented in 1632: *Inst. Bks.* (P.R.O.).

¹⁴ Maitland, *Bracton's Note-Bk.* 1033.

¹⁵ *L. and P. Hen. VIII*, xiii (1), 404, p. 589; xviii (1), p. 547; xx (1), p. 678.

¹⁶ *Cal. S.P. Dom.* 1547-80, p. 31.

¹⁷ *Exch. Dep. East.* 11 Chas. I, no. 11.

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for a settlement.¹ In 1698 his daughter and heir Elizabeth and her husband Thomas Thornton made a settlement of it.² He was impropiator³ at the time of his death in 1719; she then married the Rev. William Trimnell, dean of Winchester, and died 1737 leaving a son and heir Thomas Thornton of Brockhall who with his son Thomas Lec Thornton⁴ made a settlement in 1774.⁵ The last-named's son Thomas Reeve Thornton conveyed it to Christopher Smyth in 1801,⁶ after which it descended with the manor of Little Houghton (q.v.).

Poor's Land. An allotment of 4 a. CHARITIES 2 r. 39 p. of land in this parish was awarded in lieu of certain pieces of land in the open fields, which had been purchased with

certain benefactions amounting to £65 and were originally conveyed to trustees by deed dated 24 June 1731 for the benefit of the poor of the parish. The land is now let in allotments and the rent is distributed by 4 trustees appointed by the Parish Council.

Pendrid's Dole. The yearly sum of 5s. which is paid out of an estate at Brafield is distributed with the rent of the Poor's Land. The gift of the charity is ascribed to one Hannah Pendrid.

Church Land. On an inclosure in this parish an allotment of 1 a. 2 r. 34 p. was awarded in lieu of lands formerly held for the repairs of the church. The land is now let in allotment and the rent is paid by the churchwardens to the church expenses account.

CASTLE ASHBY

Asebi, Esseby (xi cent.); Essheby David (xiii cent.); Asscheby Davy, Castel Assheby (xiv cent.).

Castle Ashby is a parish with its village seated on an eminence 8 miles east by south from Northampton, sharing a station with Earls Barton 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ miles north of the village, on the Northampton and Peterborough branch of the L.M.S. railway. The soil is of a fertile mixed character on a subsoil of clay. The chief crops are cereals. The population in 1931 was 236.

To the south-west of the village lies the hamlet of Chadstone, in which the rectory house is situated.⁷

The castle stands in the north overlooking the valley of the Nene having three parks with ornamental water, covering a total area of 645 acres. One entrance is reached by an avenue of trees which begins at Yardley Chase, and is nearly 4 miles in length.

The mansion, which is one of the seats of the Marquess of Northampton, has nothing of the castle about it; it is a fine house of the Elizabethan period, altered in many places by descendants of the original builder, Henry, 1st Lord Compton. But it was built near the site of the medieval castle which already in the time of Leland, early in the 16th century, was a ruin. It is 'now clene down', he says, 'and is made a septum for beestes'. A few years before Leland's visit the estate had been bought, in 1512, by William Compton, one of a family that had long been established at Compton Wynyates in Warwickshire. Henry, 1st Lord Compton, presumably began the house before the death, in 1574, of his first wife, Lady Frances Hastings, whose arms are carved on a small doorway of the south-west turret.

The house, thus begun, followed the usual plan of the period. There was a main block containing the great hall, kitchens, and family rooms, and from it, on the south side, stretched two narrow wings, thus inclosing a courtyard. The fourth side was probably open, or only closed by a wall, but near the southern end of each wing was a staircase turret.

The suggested date of 1573-4 for the start of the house is confirmed by the evidence of the very interesting cellar under the dining-room at the east end of the hall. This is vaulted in stone and bears a general resemblance to the cellar at Drayton House which is beneath the wing dated 1584. But the detail of the work at Ashby, being of a very late Gothic type, may

well indicate a date some ten or twelve years earlier than 1584. In both cases the rib-vaulting is of great interest as that form of construction had largely gone out of fashion. At Ashby the cellar is under one end of the dining-room and the floor over its vaulting used to be higher than the floor of the remainder of the room, so the whole cellar has been lowered in recent years to the requisite level, the stonework being rebuilt exactly as before.

At each end of the eastern wing the buildings project beyond its face, thus leaving a long recess which in 1624 was filled in, the ground floor forming an open arcade or loggia. But these open arcades, pleasant enough in Italy, were not suited to the English climate, and in many houses they have been enclosed. The loggia was converted in 1691 into drawing-rooms. Evelyn relates how, being on a visit to Althorp in 1688, he was taken to see Lord Northampton's house, whose owner, the young earl, had married a girl whom Evelyn had known since she was a child. His reception was not quite as cordial as he expected, for the visitors, instead of going into the house, were entertained in a lobby overlooking the garden, presumably the loggia in question, and they did not prolong their stay. There were other projections from other faces of the original house, leaving other recesses, but these also were eventually filled in, thus leaving the house the almost square mass which it is to-day.

Henry was succeeded in 1589 by his son William, who was created Earl of Northampton in 1618. However much there still remained to do, the house had so far progressed as to be fit to receive James I and his queen in 1605, not to mention the extreme probability that Queen Elizabeth had stayed in it in 1603.⁸ The earl must have done much towards completing the house before his death in 1630, for the long parapet is dated 1624, as also is the parapet of the south-eastern turret. Within the house not much work of this time remains, but the fine ceiling of the room known as King William's, that of the Old Library, and that of the little room known as Lady Margaret's Bower, date from the first Earl's time. He had married in 1599 the daughter of the wealthy Sir John Spencer, who was Lord Mayor of London in 1594. He was no connexion of the Spencers of Althorp, and he bore different arms,

¹ Feet of F. Northants. Trin. 23 Chas. II.

² Ibid. East. 10 Will. and Mary.

³ Bridges, op. cit. 340.

⁴ Baker, *Hist. Northants.* 115.

⁵ Feet of F. Northants. East. 14 Geo. III.

⁶ Ibid. East. 41 Geo. III.

⁷ The suggestion that there was some monastic establishment here (*Assoc. Arch.*

Soc. Rep. xli, 236) is not supported by any documentary evidence.

⁸ A later royal visitor was Charles I, who was here for four days in 1634; *Cal. S.P. Dom.* 1634-5, p. 149.



BRAFIELD-ON-THE-GREEN CHURCH: CAPITAL IN SOUTH ARCADE



BRAFIELD-ON-THE-GREEN: THE VILLAGE



CASTLE ASHBY

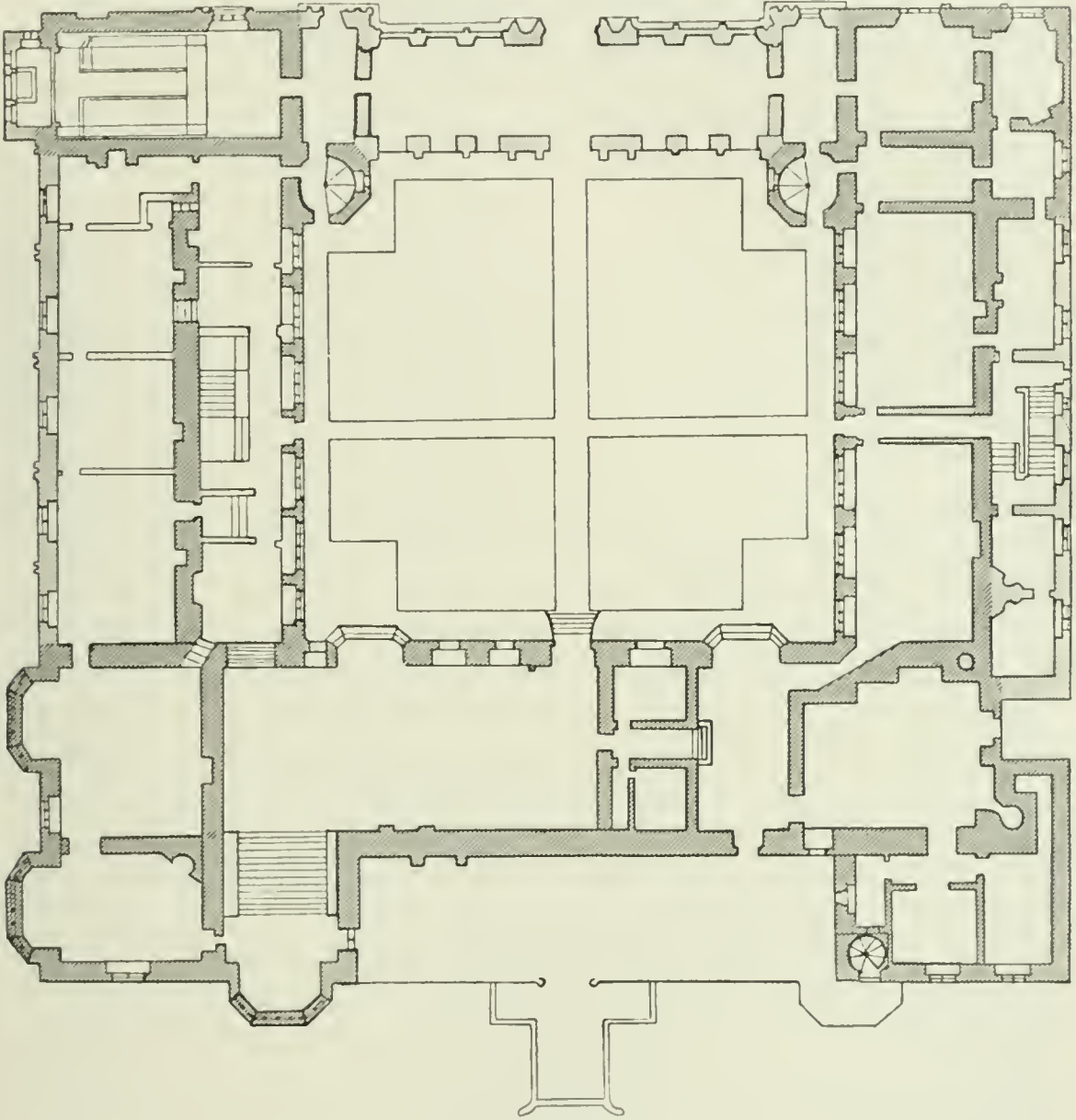
which play a large part in the heraldry of the house. His daughter was a great heiress, a circumstance of which she seems to have been fully aware, for in a letter to her husband just before 1618 she is exceedingly peremptory as to what she would have and what she would not have. After indicating her very considerable wishes her final injunction is 'that you would pay

Newsam in Yorkshire and Felbrigg Hall in Norfolk. The legend on the east wing at Castle Ashby runs thus:

NISI DOMINUS AEDIFICAVERIT DOMUM IN VANUM LABOR-
AVERUNT QUI AEDIFICANT EAM 1624:

that on the west wing thus:

NISI DOMINUS CUSTOS CUSTODIVERIT DOMUM FRUS



PLAN OF CASTLE ASHBY

your Debts, build up Ashby House, and purchase lands; and lend no money (as you love God) to the Lord Chamberlain'. This lady dwelt in a mansion at Canonbury, near London, from which in later years two fine chimney-pieces were removed to Castle Ashby.

It is hard to say how much of the work at Ashby should be attributed to Henry Lord Compton, and how much to his son William the first Earl. But the latter was responsible for some of the upper rooms and the lettered parapet. This is a feature to be found on very few houses, but there are examples at Temple

and it is continued on the north side of the courtyard thus:

17 TRA VIGILAT QUI CUSTODIT EAM 71.

The latter part was evidently reworked in 1771; the character of the letters and their less clever spacing are in keeping with their later date. The west wing has also at its south end the words FICANT EAM, which may be survivals of an original legend, corresponding with that on the east wing. The two staircase turrets have similar lettered parapets. That at the south-east corner

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has NISI DOMINUS 1624 and that at the south-west corner NISI DOMINUS 1635.

The difference in the figures raises the question of the date and authorship of the entrance screen that joins the two wings at their southern end. This has always been attributed to Inigo Jones on the authority of Colin Campbell in his *Vitruvius Britannicus*. But the rather inexpert detail of the work hardly points to the accomplished Inigo as its designer, and taking into account the beginning and growth of the Italian manner in England, the date of 1635 would seem more reasonable than 1624 were it not that it bears the arms of the first earl, who died in 1630. The screen carries on the idea of the lettered parapet, for over the front entrance there is:

DOMINUS CUSTODIAT INTROITUM TUUM,

and on the courtyard side:

DOMINUS CUSTODIAT EXITUM TUUM.

The same kind of ornament was revived in much later times as part of some improvements, for on the north front, with a return on the east and west, is the legend

BEATI OMNES QUI TIMENT DEUM QUI AMBULANT IN VIIS
EJUS LAUDATE NOMEN DOMINI AMEN 1827,

and of much the same date, on two bay-windows occurs

SALUS EST IN DOMINO.

During the 17th century the original recess on the west front must have been filled in and the handsome staircase contrived within it. The loggia on the east front was converted into rooms in 1691, as already mentioned, and near it was introduced another large staircase. Many of the rooms were finely panelled, and some of them were adorned with carving. The decoration of Lady Margaret's bower was carried out by the son of the first earl, who succeeded in 1630 and was slain at the battle of Hopton Heath in 1643. This is established by the presence of his arms impaling those of his wife, who was a daughter of Sir Francis Beaumont of Cole-Orton, and the work may be part of that to which the date of 1635 applies. The decoration consists largely of a painted wood dado divided into large arched panels, over each of which is affixed a small landscape picture inscribed with a sign of the Zodiac. But in this decoration Inigo Jones could have had no part; it is probably due to a local craftsman, except for the pictures, which look as though they came from a Dutch or Flemish brush of no great skill.

In the early years of the 18th century the recess on the north front was filled in, and further work was done in 1748, as indicated by certain spout-heads bearing that date. Then in 1771-2 a new roof was given to the great hall and its parapet was rebuilt and dated 1771, as already mentioned. Early in the 19th century the eighth earl and first marquess did much work in the house, Britton remarking that 'it has been wholly renovated, and adapted to the comforts of refined society, by the present noble proprietor'. The refine-

ment of the age was inimical to the ancient decorations and they suffered accordingly. The third marquess did further work in the great hall, restoring its Elizabethan character, and brought the two chimney-pieces from Canonbury, putting one in the Hall and one in King William's Room. He also laid out the gardens in their present form and built the entrance lodges. Before his time the original noble lay-out of the gardens and their surroundings had been sadly changed (about the year 1764) by 'Capability' Brown, whose aim was to sweep away the formality of the old lay-outs in favour of something more natural and sylvan. He completely ruined the old scheme at a great cost, which was met by a sale of land, one of the deeds being endorsed with a satirical note by the owner: 'I take the manor of Fen Stanton to belong to Lawrence Brown Taste, Esq., who gave Lord Northampton Taste in exchange for it.'

In 1086 one Hugh held of the Countess *MANOR* Judith 2 hides less one virgate in *ASHBY*, including woodland, and a mill rendering 6s. 8d. yearly. Attached to this holding was 1 virgate of socland in Grendon.¹ At the time of the 12th-century Survey William Fitz-Clarembald had 3½ hides in Ashby and Chadstone,² and in 1235 1 fee in Ashby was part of the honor of Huntingdon with which the overlordship remained.³ The family of Ashby was already well established here,⁴ and by 1242 1 fee in Ashby and Grendon was held of Henry de Hastings by Sir David de Ashby,⁵ who had presented Simon de Ashby to the church in the previous year.⁶ His tenure gave the name of *ASHBY DAVID* to the manor, which descended to David, son of William de Ashby by Amabel daughter of Roger de St. Martin. William had died before 1243⁷ and in 1249 Henry Muschett still had the wardship of his land and heir.⁸ David son of William appears to have been slain at Evesham in 1265⁹ and in the following year the king made a grant to Isabel his widow, and her children, from David's lands in Ashby, Grendon, and Chadstone, extended at £89 11s. 9d. a year, which had been given to Imbert Guy.¹⁰ David had apparently mortgaged this holding to Moses the Jew of London¹¹ whose son Elias in 1267 confirmed to Alan la Zouche a yearly fee of £124 and a debt of £100 in which David de Ashby had been bound.¹² This resulted in an inquisition two years later between Isabel daughter of Stephen, son and heir of David de Ashby, and Alan la Zouche, concerning David's estate at the time of the war and the battle of Evesham.¹³ That the property was confirmed to Alan is clear from the facts that in 1276 his widow Ellen had view of frankpledge in Ashby¹⁴ and in 1284 her son Oliver held of John de Hastings the fee in Ashby and Grendon.¹⁵ Before 1306 Oliver la Zouche had enfeoffed Walter de Langton, Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield,¹⁶ treasurer and chief minister of Edward I, who in that year received licence to crenellate the house he was then building at Ashby David,¹⁷ which caused the manor to be known as Castle Ashby. He also had a grant of free warren in his demesne lands there.¹⁸ During Langton's imprisonment under Edward II, William Trenchefeoll

¹ *V.C.H. Northants.* i, 353b.

² *Ibid.* 367b.

³ *Bk. of Fees*, 501.

⁴ Cf. Farrer, *Honors and Knights' Fees*, ii, 334.

⁵ *Cal. Close*, 1237-42, p. 369; *Bk. of Fees*, 938.

⁶ *Rot. Rob. Grosseteste* (Cant. and York Soc.), 204.

⁷ Farrer, ii, 189.

⁸ *Rot. Rob. Grosseteste* (Cant. and York Soc.), 242.

⁹ Farrer, ii, 335.

¹⁰ *Cal. Pat.* 1258-66, p. 529.

¹¹ *Plac. de Quo Warr.* (Rec. Com.), 524a.

¹² *Cal. Pat.* 1266-72, p. 177.

¹³ *Ibid.* p. 472.

¹⁴ *Hund. Rolls* (Rec. Com.), ii, 8.

¹⁵ *Feud. Aids*, iv, 6. His possession appears to have been confirmed by a fine from Hugh and Agnes de Ashby: Feet of F. Northants. 18 Edw. I, no. 269.

¹⁶ *Plac. de Quo Warr.* (Rec. Com.), 542a.

¹⁷ *Cal. Pat.* 1301-7, p. 462.

¹⁸ *Cal. Chart.* iii, 77.

was keeper of the manor in 1311.¹ Langton afterwards settled it upon Robert Peverel and his wife Alice with remainder to their son Edmund.² In 1325 the two fees in Ashby were held by Robert's widow Alice.³ She married Thomas de Verdon with whom, in 1329, she claimed to have view of frankpledge and free warren in the manor,⁴ and he was said to hold half a fee in Ashby and Grendon in 1346.⁵ Alice de Verdon and her grandson John, son and heir of Edmund Peverel, both died in 1349, probably from the Black Death. The manor then included 160 acres in demesne, but was not worth more than 40s. for want of servants because of the pestilence, only six out of twenty-four bondmen surviving.⁶ John son of Edmund Peverel, when 21, had demised all his lands in the county to John de Lyle of Rougemont,⁷ from whom the manor passed into the possession of William de la Pole, the husband of Margaret sister and heir of John Peverel,⁸ and he, in 1358, settled it on himself and his wife in tail male.⁹ He was succeeded in 1366¹⁰ by his son Sir John de la Pole of Chrishall, Essex, who married Joan daughter of John Lord Cobham.¹¹ His right passed to their daughter Joan, afterwards Lady Cobham,¹² who in 1390 with Sir Robert Hemenale, her first husband, levied a fine of the manors of Ashby David and Chadstone to members of the Braybroke family.¹³ In 1392 this property was settled on Gerard Braybroke sen. and his wife Isabel with reversion to the said Joan and her second husband Sir Reynold Braybroke.¹⁴ Gerard died in 1403 seised of the castle and manor, held of Reynold de Grey of Ruthin,¹⁵ which then passed successively from Sir Reynold Braybroke to Sir Nicholas Hawberk and Sir John Oldcastle¹⁶ the third and fourth husbands of Joan Lady Cobham. When Oldcastle was executed as a lollard and traitor in 1417,¹⁷ the manor, including one water-mill worth 40s., was seised into the king's hands, but restored to his widow in 1418.¹⁸ In 1419 Joan demised the manors of Ashby and Chadstone to Sir Gerard Braybroke for thirty years at a rent of £10, which term he assigned to the chief lord, Sir Reynold de Grey of Ruthin, in December 1423.¹⁹ In September of this year he had already conveyed the reversion of the property held by Joan and her fifth husband, Sir John Harpenden, to John de Grey of Ruthin and others.²⁰ After her death in 1434 it appears to have descended with the rest of the possessions of this family for several generations,²¹ until Richard Earl of Kent wasted the estate, which in 1506 was conveyed to his brother-in-law Lord Hussey²² and in 1512 to Sir William Compton, a distinguished courtier and soldier, son of Edmund Compton of

Compton Wynyates in Warwickshire,²³ who also acquired other property of the earl.

Sir William Compton married Werburga daughter and heir to Sir John Brereton and widow of Sir Francis Cheyney, and died in 1528 leaving lands in eighteen counties. The manor of Ashby David, with 20 messuages and a water-mill, passed to his son Peter, a minor in the wardship of Cardinal Wolsey.²⁴ He died under age in 1539 leaving a son Henry by his wife Anne daughter of George Talbot, 4th Earl of Shrewsbury.²⁵ Henry became Lord Compton by writs of summons to Parliament, 1572 to 1589, and was one of the peers for the trial of Mary Queen of Scots in 1586. The successor to his title and property three years later was his son William by his first wife Frances daughter of Francis Hastings, Earl of Huntingdon; he was created Earl of Northampton in 1618.²⁶ From this date the manor has remained in the possession of the family and it is the seat of the present Marquess of Northampton.²⁷

The manor of *CHADSTONE*, rated in 1086 at 1 hide and 3 virgates, was then held in chief by Dru de Bevrere.²⁸ He is said to have fled the country for the murder of his wife, and his lands were given to Odo de Champagne.²⁹ The overlordship therefore descended with the earldom of Aumale.³⁰ In 1235 it was held by Reynold de Ashby as $\frac{1}{2}$ fee, and in 1242 similarly by William de Bussepay and Amabel his wife (presumably the widow of William de Ashby),³¹ but Oliver la Zouche held it in 1284 as a quarter fee.³² From this time it descended with the main manor of Castle Ashby.

The parish church of *ST. MARY MAGDALENE* stands in the park, south-east of the castle, and consists of chancel, 41 ft. 3 in. by 18 ft. *CHURCH* 6 in. with chapel on its north side; nave of three bays, 49 ft. 6 in. by 17 ft.; north and south aisles respectively 15 ft. 6 in. and 14 ft. 3 in. wide; north and south porches, and west tower 13 ft. square, all these measurements being internal. The width across nave and aisles is 52 ft. The chapel forms the east end of the north aisle and covers the chancel for nearly half its length.

The building throughout is of limestone rubble with ironstone dressings, and all the walls are plastered internally. The roofs are of low pitch and leaded. There are straight parapets to the chancel, aisles, and porches,



COMPTON. *Sable a leopard passant guardant between three helmets argent.*

¹ *Cal. Fine*, ii, 115.
² *Plac. de Quo Warr.* (Rec. Com.), 542a; *Feud. Aids*, iv, 26.
³ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* vi, no. 612, p. 391.
⁴ *Plac. de Quo Warr.* (Rec. Com.), 542a.
⁵ *Feud. Aids*, iv, 447.
⁶ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* ix, 179.
⁷ *Ibid.* 180; *Cal. Close*, 1349-54, p. 211.
⁸ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* ix, 180; *Cal. Close*, 1349-54, pp. 150-1, 511; *ibid.* 1354-60, p. 216; Feet of F. Northants. file 80, nos. 416, 435; file 81, no. 458. Isabel wife of Robert Rigge, formerly wife of John Peverel, surrendered her claim to dower of a third of the manor.
⁹ Feet of F. Northants. file 81, no. 469.
¹⁰ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 40 Edw. III, no. 31.
¹¹ G.E.C. *Complete Peerage* (2nd ed.), iii, 345; *Cal. Close*, 1360-4, p. 425; 1369-74, p. 66.

¹² G.E.C. loc. cit.
¹³ Feet of F. Div. Co. file 55, no. 195; *Cal. Close*, 1389-92, p. 335.
¹⁴ *Cal. Close*, 1413-19, p. 488.
¹⁵ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 4 Hen. IV, no. 21; cf. *Feud. Aids*, iv, 42.
¹⁶ G.E.C. loc. cit.
¹⁷ *Dict. Nat. Biog.*
¹⁸ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 6 Hen. V, no. 45; *Cal. Close*, 1413-19, p. 488.
¹⁹ Bridges, i, 342.
²⁰ Feet of F. case 179, file 93, no. 7.
²¹ G.E.C. *Complete Peerage*, vi, 155-60.
²² *Ibid.* 168-9; Bridges, i, 342. He presented to the living of Castle Ashby in 1507 and 1512: Bridges, i, 345.
²³ *Ibid.*; *Dict. Nat. Biog.*
²⁴ *Excheq. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), dexciii, 1.
²⁵ G.E.C. op. cit. iii, 390; *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), liv, 135.

²⁶ G.E.C. op. cit. iii, 390-1; *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), ccxxix, 130. Henry Lord Compton made a settlement of this manor in 1574: Feet of F. Northants. Mich. 16 & 17 Eliz.; Rec. R. Trin. 16 Eliz. m. 1519.
²⁷ For their settlements of property, including this manor and Yardley Hastings, see Feet of F. Div. Co. Hil. 6 Chas. I; Trin. 23 Chas. I; Rec. R. Trin. 23 Chas. I, m. 62; East. 1658, m. 120; Mich. 19 Chas. II, m. 207; Hil. 1-2 Jas. II, m. 23; Hil. 2 Geo. I, m. 13; Trin. 12-3 Geo. II, m. 165; Trin. 21 Geo. III, m. 385; Hil. 51 Geo. III, m. 212.
²⁸ *J.C.H. Northants*, i, 349a.
²⁹ Dugdale, *Baronage*, i, 468.
³⁰ *Bk. of Fees*, 497, 942; *Cal. Inq. p.m.* ix, 180.
³¹ *Bk. of Fees*, 497, 942.
³² *Feud. Aids*, iv, 5.

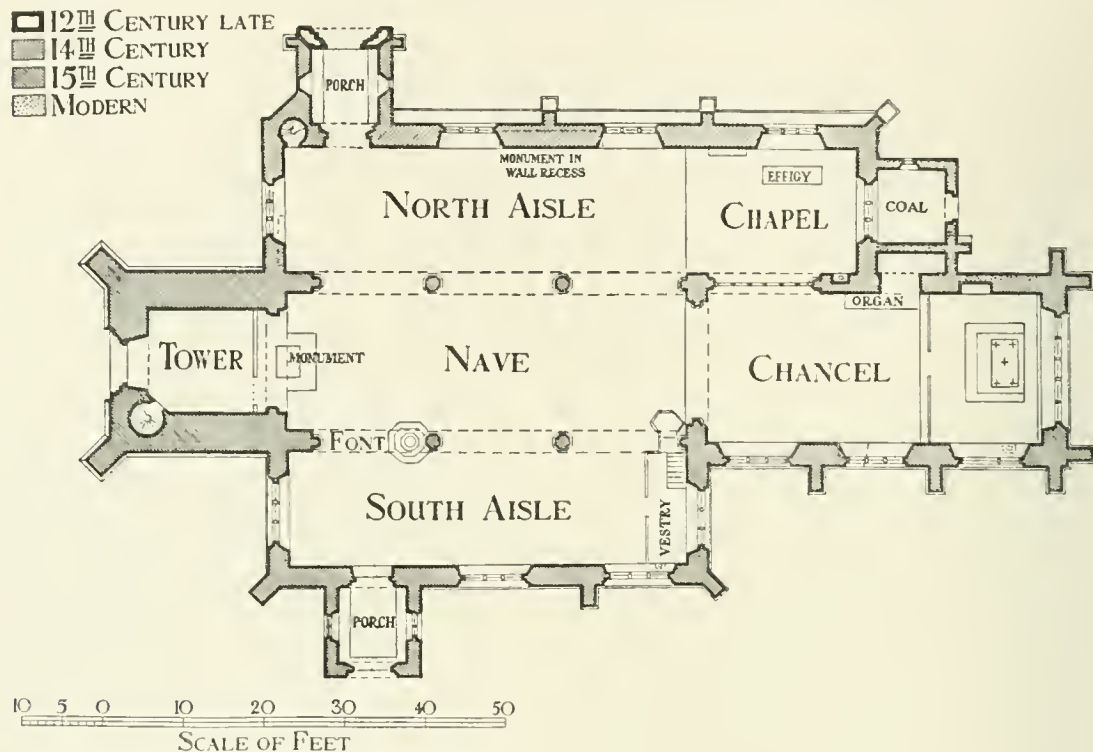
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but the lead of the nave roof overhangs. Between 1836 and 1849 alterations, chiefly in the chancel, were carried out by the 2nd Marquess of Northampton,¹ and in 1870, during the incumbency of Lord Alwyne Compton, the building was extensively restored under the direction of George Edmund Street.² The tower was repaired in 1935.

The outer doorway of the north porch is of late 12th-century date, but there is no other work of this period, and the doorway is not in its original position. Whether it belonged to an earlier building on the site or was brought here from elsewhere cannot now be

middle order with lozenge moulding, in each case on both the wall and soffit planes. The inner order has a simple quarter-round on the edge, and the hood an enriched indented moulding. All three orders rest on nook-shafts, the capitals of which are carved with stiff plantain-like leaves, the jambs between the outer shafts being enriched with round studs. The two larger shafts on each side have been renewed, and the arch generally has been much restored, especially the outer orders.⁴

The north porch, of which the doorway forms the 'frontispiece', is sometimes claimed to be of the 13th



PLAN OF CASTLE ASHBY CHURCH

determined.³ The existing structure can only be regarded in the light of a 14th- and 15th-century rebuilding. The north aisle is of the former period, but in the 15th century the nave arcades were entirely rebuilt, the south aisle added or widened, and the present chancel, south porch, and tower erected. In the main, therefore, the building is of 15th-century date, though the windows of the north aisle are excellent examples of 14th-century work.

The outer north doorway, which is characteristically Transitional in style, has a wide semicircular arch of three orders, separated by lines of four-leaved ornament, the outer order enriched with chevron and the

century, apparently on the evidence of its plain pointed lateral windows and one, wholly restored, above the arch. These windows are, however, of a rather rough and nondescript character,⁵ and in the upper part of the east wall, originally lighting a chamber, the floor of which has been removed, is an unrestored single-light window with trefoiled ogee head of c. 1400. The present doorway from the aisle to the porch is apparently of the same period,⁶ and the porch is probably not earlier. Access to the porch-chamber was from the north aisle by a circular stone stair, which is still in position.

The chancel is of three bays, marked externally on

¹ The work then done is referred to in the description below.

² In his notes on the restoration Lord Alwyne Compton wrote: 'The walls and windows needed no change except that the old windows of the tower under the belfry storey on east, north, and south were restored. The roofs were in bad condition, those of the chancel and nave very mean and poor. These were made good, their pitch raised, also the walls of the nave raised a little, the former roof having been close upon the arches. The aisle roofs were only restored.' The total cost of the res-

toration was 'something over £4,500', of which the 3rd Marquess of Northampton paid £3,200. The tiled flooring was designed by Lord Alwyne Compton, whose share in the restoration of the church is described by the present Marquess of Northampton as 'perhaps rather too revolutionary': *Hist. of the Comptons* (1930), 281.

³ Various theories have been put forward as to the provenance of the doorway. The doubts as to its having belonged originally to the church are mentioned in a pamphlet on Castle Ashby by S. S. Cam-

pion, first published in 1874.

⁴ The doorway is figured, and details given, in Sharpe's *Chs. of the Nene Valley*, plates 62 and 63. The opening is 4 ft. 6 in. wide, and the total outside width of the arch, including the hood-mould, about 10 ft. The height, to the intrados is 6 ft. 10 in.

⁵ That in the west wall has a hood-mould and the head is in one stone; the head of the east window is in two stones and there is no hood.

⁶ It has a continuous casement moulding.

the south side by buttresses, and is lighted by a four-centred east window of five cinquefoiled lights with vertical tracery, and on the south by three windows of similar character but of three lights; all these windows have double-chamfered jambs, and hood-moulds with head-stops. In the middle bay, below the window, is a chamfered priest's doorway with four-centred arch, the original oak door of which remains, though not used. There are no windows in the north wall, but near to its east end is the blocked doorway of a former sacristy. The piscina is of an unusual type, with cinquefoiled ogee head, stone shelf, and two lower compartments, the bottom one containing two trefoil-shaped bowls, and the upper a plain circular bowl. There are no sedilia. On the north side the chancel is open to the chapel by a pointed arch¹ of two chamfered orders, the inner order on half-octagonal responds with moulded capitals and chamfered bases. The much-restored chancel arch² is of the same character, except that both orders spring from moulded capitals. The arches are without hood-moulds. There is no chancel screen nor any traces of the rood-loft.³

The nave arcades consist of three lofty pointed arches of two chamfered orders, without hood-moulds, springing from octagonal pillars with moulded capitals and bases, and from responds of similar character but with chamfered bases. The 14th-century north aisle is lighted by three pointed windows in the north wall, each of three trefoiled lights with reticulated tracery, and at each end by a pointed window of rather later character, of three cinquefoiled lights and decorated tracery, the jambs of which are moulded. All these windows, the easternmost of which light the chapel, have hood-moulds. The doorway and porch, in each aisle, occupy the westernmost bay. In the west wall of the north aisle, near its south end, is a plain pointed recess 6 ft. 10 in. wide, the sill of which is about 15 in. above the floor.⁴ There is no structural or other division between the chapel and aisle, but its floor is raised one step, and in the usual position in its south wall is a pointed piscina with plain ogee head and circular bowl. The lean-to roof of the aisle and chapel is continuous, but externally there is a low-pitched gable at each end.⁵

The south aisle has diagonal angle buttresses and is lighted by pointed windows of three lights similar to those in the chancel. Internally, on each side of the east window is an image-bracket, that on the south side moulded, the other in the form of a man's head, and between the latter and the window is a niche with trefoiled ogee head and square hood-mould. Another and larger niche in the south wall was brought here from Grendon church in 1848.⁶ The plain trefoil-headed piscina of the aisle altar has a circular bowl and

stone shelf. The pointed south doorway has a simple, continuous hollow moulding and hood with returned ends.

The lofty south porch has a low-pitched gable and moulded four-centred outer doorway, above which is a niche with cusped ogee head. The lateral windows are square-headed and of two trefoiled lights.⁷

The tower is of three stages, with moulded plinth, diagonal buttresses, and battlemented ashlar parapet with angle pinnacles. The pointed west doorway has a continuous-moulded arch within a square frame, and traceried spandrels; above it is a tall pointed window of three cinquefoiled lights and vertical tracery. The lower stage is blank on the north and south, and the middle stage on the north and west, except for a clock dial, but on the south and east is a restored single-light window. The pointed bell-chamber windows are of two cinquefoiled lights with a quatrefoil in the head, and the tower has a pyramidal leaded roof and iron vane. There is a vice in the south-west angle. The lofty pointed arch to the nave is of two chamfered orders, the inner order on half-octagonal responds with moulded capitals and bases. The lower part of the opening is filled with a modern oak screen.

The font has a plain octagonal bowl and stem on a moulded base, and is probably contemporary with the nave arcades.

The hexagonal oak pulpit is of the early Jacobean period with panelled sides and elaborate canopy.⁸ A contemporary panelled reading-desk was converted in 1870 into a screen for a small vestry at the east end of the south aisle, two of its narrow panels being replaced by new ones a little wider, and small balusters added at the top for height.⁹

The effigy of Sir David de Esseby (1265) in the north chapel has already been described.¹⁰

The beautiful monumental brass of Walter Ermyn, rector (1401), had originally a shield at each corner of the slab and was surrounded by a marginal inscription,¹¹ but the figure of the priest alone now remains. He is represented vested in a cope, upon the borders of which are engraved small figures of St. Peter, St. Paul, St. Andrew, St. Nicholas, and St. Lawrence on one side, and on the other St. Anne, St. Katharine, St. Margaret, St. Mary Magdalene, and St. Elena.¹²

On the east jamb of the chancel doorway is a scratch dial.

There are several monuments to members of the Compton family. Of these the most notable are (1) a marble group in bas-relief by Pietro Tenerani, in memory of Margaret wife of the 2nd Marquess of Northampton, who died in 1830;¹³ (2) the large marble figure of the Angel of the Resurrection, by the same

in the old library at the castle: Lord Alwyne Compton's Notes.

¹⁰ *P.C.H. Northants.* i, 395. It was placed in its present position in 1848.

¹¹ The shields and inscription had been 'torn off' before Bridges' time: *Hist. of Northants.* i, 340.

¹² Hudson, *Brasses of Northants.* (1853), where it is figured. The brass is in the floor of the chancel.

¹³ It was erected in 1836 against the brick wall in the arch between the chancel, and moved to the north wall of the chapel in 1848 when the arch was opened out. It is signed 'Pietro Tenerani di Carrara faceva in Roma nel 1836'. The group depicts Charity as a standing female figure giving alms to a seated woman with two children.

¹ Below this arch is a modern oak screen. In 1836 the 2nd Marquess of Northampton bricked up this arch, after removing a lath and plaster wall which then blocked it, and against the brick wall he put up a monument to his wife. In 1848-9 he opened out the arch as it is now, and removed the pews and panelling from the chancel, exposing the piscina and the sacristy doorway. The stone reredos was put up at this time.

² In 1843 the lath and plaster bearing the royal arms, which then filled the upper part of the chancel arch, was removed.

³ There is mention of a rood-loft in 1487, when it was named as a model for one to be made in Great Brington church: Marquess of Northampton, *Hist. of the*

Comptons, 323.

⁴ The arch is square on edge and is 4 ft. 5 in. high; the recess is 12 in. deep.

⁵ In the south aisle the parapet follows the rake of the roof.

⁶ It has a cinquefoil ogee head and crocketed hood-mould with finial and head-stops, and the hollow outer moulding of the jambs is enriched with roses and four-leaf flowers.

⁷ There is a descent of two steps from the churchyard to the porch and of two from the porch to the floor of the church.

⁸ The pulpit was moved to its present position in 1848. It is shown against the south-east pillar of the nave in a drawing of 1810.

⁹ The balusters were copied from some

A HISTORY OF NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

sculptor,¹ in memory of Spencer, 2nd Marquess of Northampton (d. 1851), at the west end of the nave; and (3) the recumbent marble figure, in a recess in the north wall of the north aisle, of Lady Margaret Leveson-Gower (d. 1858), 2nd daughter of the 2nd Marquess of Northampton, the work of Baron Marchetti. There are also memorials to Charles, 1st Marquess of Northampton (d. 1828), and his wife (d. 1843);² to Lord Alwyne Compton (d. 1906) who was rector of Castle Ashby 1852-78;³ John Segrave, rector (d. 1836); and to six men of the parish, including Lord Spencer Compton, killed in the war of 1914-18.

No ancient glass now remains.⁴

There is a ring of five bells, the first and second dated 1610, the third inscribed 'Sancta Agatha ora pro nobis', and the fourth and tenor by R. Taylor & Son, Oxford, 1826.⁵

The plate is all silver-gilt and consists of two cups and patens, a flagon, a bread-holder, and an alms dish, made in 1713 by Pierre Platel, each inscribed 'Given by Mary Countess of Northampton to Ashby Church'.⁶

The registers before 1812 are as follows: (i) all

entries 1564-1650; (ii) 1653-97; (iii) 1698-1720; (iv) burials 1678-1744; (v) all entries 1683-1706; (vi) 1721-1812; (vii) marriages 1754-1812.

In the churchyard is a cross erected in 1883 as a memorial to Charles, 3rd Marquess of Northampton (d. 1877).

The first known presentations to *ADVOWSON* this rectory were by David de Ashby in 1240⁷ and Henry Muschet, as guardian of the younger David, in 1249.⁸ From this time it passed with the manor. During the minority of an heir in 1356, the king granted this rectory to Thomas de Brantingham who later became Lord Treasurer and Bishop of Exeter.⁹ In the reign of Henry VIII John Baker, the new parson, complained that the servants of the executors of his predecessor had negligently destroyed two great barns while sheep branding.¹⁰

James Burgess, who died in 1802, left *CHARITY* £100 3% Consols to the poor of the parish. The endowment is now represented by a sum of £100 2½% Consolidated Stock held by the Official Trustees and the dividends amounting to £2 10s. are distributed by the rector and two trustees.

COGENHOE

Cugenho (xi cent.); Cogeho, Cughanhocg (xii cent.); Cogenhowe (xiii cent.); Cokenowe, Cuknall (xvi cent.); Coginghoo, Cogenhow, Cooknow (xviii cent.).

The area of the civil parish is 820 acres land and water, the soil a fertile mixed kind with gravel and sandstone, the chief crops wheat and oats. The small village is charmingly placed about 250 ft. above the ordnance datum on ground sloping down to the east and rising towards the higher country in the south. It commands extensive views of the Nene, its northern boundary. To the north, past the church, stands the water-mill on the Nene. There were about 30 families in 1720;¹¹ and in 1931 the population of the civil parish was 461, showing a slight decline from 1921.¹² The local brown stone was used for building; a fine white sand is obtained suitable for a superior kind of pottery; and in 1874 there was a prosperous Cogenhoe Iron Company.¹³ Shoe-making is now the chief industry. The wake followed the feast of St. Peter,¹⁴ the patron saint of the church.

Writing in 1904 Mr. A. Hartshorne recorded that within his recollection Cogenhoe was a very picturesque village and described it as 'still noteworthy on account of its numerous great ironstone barns with roofs very high pitched for the thatch. Some of these have been transformed into cottages, others into shoe factories, and several have been pulled down. In many cases the old thatch has given place to corrugated iron roofs, both

on barn and cottage. All new buildings are now in brick.'¹⁵ Since this was written more brick houses have been built in the upper part of the village, but the older lower part still preserves much of its original character. The Manor House, though greatly restored, is dated 1672, and one of the former barns was built in the same year. The Manor House Farm retains its thatched roof and has a panel in one of its stone dormer windows inscribed 'RSL 1684'. A house at the east end of the village bears the initials and date 'E A 1709'.

The rectory house stands immediately east of the church and is a picturesque two-story gabled building with mullioned windows and tiled roofs, of late-16th- or early-17th-century date, with subsequent alterations¹⁶ and adequately restored.

In 1086 3½ virgates in *COGENHOE MANORS* belonged to Guy de Reinbuedcurt and the remaining 3 were among the lands of the Countess Judith. The former had been held by Edwin in King Edward's time; Norgiot or Norgiold was under-tenant of both estates in 1086.¹⁷

The overlordship of half the fee descended from Guy de Reinbuedcurt with his barony of Wardon, as part of the fee of Haversham. It was held of the manor of Claybrook, Leicestershire in 1336,¹⁸ and was charged for guard at Rockingham Castle. The other half was held of Judith's successors, the holders of the honor of Huntingdon, as of their manor of Yardley Hastings.¹⁹

¹ It is a replica of one by Tenerani in Italy. It is signed 'P. Tenerani faceva 1866'.

² Erected in 1844 by their son the 2nd marquess below the east window of the north chapel, designed by F. Blore.

³ Dean of Worcester 1878-85, Bishop of Ely 1886-1905. He was the fourth son of the 2nd marquess.

⁴ Bridges, about 1720, records 'the remains of figures of angels and saints with some imperfect words' in the windows of the north aisle: *Hist. of Northants.* i, 346.

⁵ North, *Ch. Bells of Northants.* 216, where the inscriptions are given. The

treble was the gift of 'William Lord Comton and Lady Elizabeth his wife'. There were six bells in Bridges' time: *op. cit.* i, 345.

⁶ Markham, *Ch. Plate of Northants.* 13. Ascribed to Paul Lamerie (*ibid.*) but experts now attribute it to Platel.

⁷ *Rot. Rob. Grosseteste* (Cant. and York Soc.), 204.

⁸ *Ibid.* 242.

⁹ *Cal. Pat.* 1354-8, p. 360; *Dict. Nat. Biog.*

¹⁰ C. of Req. bdle. 3, no. 79.

¹¹ Bridges, *Hist. of Northants.* i, 347.

¹² Census.

¹³ Whellan, *Gaz.* 253.

¹⁴ Bridges, *op. cit.* 350.

¹⁵ MS. note.

¹⁶ The south or entrance front has a gabled wing at each end, but the two middle gables are modern: they are not shown on a drawing made by Sir Henry Dryden in 1838, now in the Northampton Public Library.

¹⁷ *V.C.H. Northants.* i, 343a, 354b.

¹⁸ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* vii, 709.

¹⁹ *Bk. of Fees*, 494, 498, 501; and manorial references; *Cal. Close*, 1374-7, p. 189.



CASTLE ASHBY CHURCH, FROM THE SOUTH-EAST
(From a drawing in the British Museum, c. 1820)



COGESHOE: THE RECTORY HOUSE, NORTH SIDE

The Wardon overlordship is not mentioned after 1428,¹ and seems to have been replaced by that of Huntingdon for the whole lordship by 1468.²

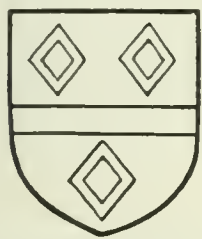
Norgiot held also in Great Harrowden and Wellingborough in 1086; and the descent of fees in those places to the Cogenhoses makes it likely that he was ancestor of that family. Then, in the 12th century, came Nicholas de Cogenhoe, lord of Harrowden and Wellingborough (q.v.), and William, lord of Cogenhoe.³ Henry de Cogenhoe, who, about 1175, gave St. Andrew's Priory tithes of Harrowden,⁴ may have been lord here. Another William was lord from 1202 or earlier to about 1238, when the overlords of the two fees made a joint presentation to the church as guardians of his heir Nicholas.⁵ Nicholas, the traditional builder of most of the church,⁶ was a knight in the garrison of Northampton castle in 1264⁷ and held the manor and advowson⁸ until he was laid to rest in the beautiful tomb he had no doubt prepared for himself, in 1280,⁹ when his son and heir William, aged 40,¹⁰ received livery.¹¹ Giles had succeeded by 1313¹² and died seised in 1349 leaving a son and heir John,¹³ who died in or before 1361. His son and heir William¹⁴ was succeeded in 1389 by a son William, aged 10,¹⁵ who died child-

Joan his wife.²¹ Later the property was settled on Sir John and Agnes his second wife. He died seised in 1468, when his heir was his great-great nephew John, aged 3 (i.e. son of John, son of John, son of Sir Thomas Cheyne).²² This John made a settlement in 1500,²³ and died seised in 1535 leaving a son and heir Robert.²⁴ He was succeeded in 1552 by his son John,²⁵ who died seised in 1585 leaving a son and heir John.²⁶ John, through settlements on his younger brother Francis, died seised of reversions only.²⁷ His son Francis succeeded his uncle, now Sir Francis Cheyne, in 1620,²⁸ and was succeeded by his son Charles in 1644,²⁹ who sold the manor and advowson about 1655³⁰ to — Bond.³¹ George Thompson and Margaret his wife conveyed a moiety of the manor and advowson to Elizabeth Bond, widow, in 1678;³² and she and James Bond and Mary his wife conveyed the advowson in that year to Samuel Freeman³³ husband of Susan Palmer.³⁴ They sold the manor to Matthew Linwood, whose son Matthew was lord about 1720.³⁵ Matthew Linwood senior and junior conveyed the manor in 1749 with courts baron to John Palmer.³⁶ His sister and eventual heir Barbara married Eyre Whalley,³⁷ and the manor is now vested in the trustees of the Rev. John Christopher Whalley.

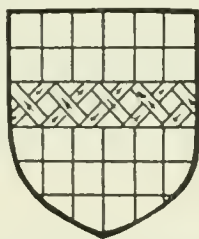
The church³⁸ of *ST. PETER* consists *CHURCH* of chancel, 23 ft. 9 in. by 15 ft. 6 in. with chapel on the north side, 12 ft. 9 in. by 13 ft.; clerestoried nave, 38 ft. by 18 ft. 9 in., north and south aisles, 10 ft. 2 in. and 11 ft. 2 in. wide respectively, south porch, and west tower 11 ft. by 10 ft., all these measurements being internal. The width across nave and aisles is 44 ft. 9 in.

The walling generally is of roughly coursed undressed limestone mingled with local ironstone,³⁹ but the latter alone is used in the tower. The chancel and chapel have modern high-pitched overhanging tiled roofs, but elsewhere the roofs are of low pitch and leaded, behind straight parapets. Internally the walls are plastered and the floors flagged.

The building was extensively restored in 1869–70, when the north chapel, which had been long demolished, was rebuilt on its old foundations, the chancel and aisles re-roofed, the nave roof strengthened, a new east window put in the chancel, a west gallery removed and the tower arch opened out, and the old square pews replaced by open seats.⁴⁰



COGENHOE. Gules a fesse between three voided lozenges argent.



CHEYNE, of Chesham Bois. Checky or and azure a fesse gules fretty ermine.

less ten years later. His sister and heir Agnes¹⁶ married John Cheyne of Isenhampstead Chenies, Bucks.,¹⁷ who with his wife received seisin.¹⁸ Other settlements were made;¹⁹ and in 1444 John Cheyne alienated manor and advowson to Thomas Cheyne of Chesham Bois, Bucks.²⁰ The former's son William released all right eight years later to Sir John Cheyne (brother of Thomas) and

¹ *Feud. Aids*, iv, 42.

² *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 8 Edw. IV, no. 51.

³ *V.C.H. Northants.* i, 376a. Elias brother of William occurs late in the century: *Harl. Chart.* 86, C. 41.

⁴ *Farrer, Honors and Knights' Fees*, ii, 389, where it is suggested that he was Henry Noriot.

⁵ *Rot. Robert Grosseteste* (Cant. and York Soc.), 178; *Assize R.* (Northants. Rec. Soc.), no. 490; *Cur. Reg. R.* iii, 186; *Feet of F. Northants.* 6 John, file 11, no. 181.

⁶ *V.C.H. Northants.* i, 396.

⁷ *Farrer*, loc. cit.

⁸ *Bk. of Fees*, 931, 938, 943; *Cal. Close*, 1237–42, p. 369; *Cal. Inq. p.m.* ii, no. 374.

⁹ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* ii, no. 400; *V.C.H. Northants.* i, 396.

¹⁰ *Cal. Fine*, i, 150.

¹¹ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* v, 412, p. 235.

¹² *Ibid.* ix, 374; *Cal. Fine*, vi, 201; *Abbrev. Rot. Orig.* (Rec. Com.), ii, 203.

¹³ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 35 Edw. III (1st nos.), no. 55; *Cal. Fine*, vii, no. 190.

¹⁴ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 12 Ric. II, no. 8; *Cal. Fine*, x, 294.

¹⁵ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 22 Ric. II, no. 15; *Cal. Close*, 1396–9, p. 435.

¹⁶ *Cal. Close*, 1396–9, p. 465.

¹⁷ *Cal. Fine*, xi, 298.

¹⁸ *Feet of F. Northants.* 2 Hen. IV, file 90, no. 12; 17 Hen. VI, file 94, no. 91.

¹⁹ *Close R.* 22 Hen. VI, m. 31.

²⁰ *Ibid.* 30 Hen. VI, m. 21.

²¹ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 8 Edw. IV, no. 51.

²² *Feet of F. Northants.* East. 15 Hen. VII.

²³ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), lvii, 35.

²⁴ *Ibid.* xcvi, 60.

²⁵ *Ibid.* cxxviii, 93.

²⁶ Francis also received a Crown grant (Com. Pleas D. Enr. Trin. 41 Eliz. m. 16). John is said to have been disinherited (*Bridges*, op. cit. 348).

²⁷ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), cccclxxxiii, 83.

²⁸ There is in the church a plan, dated 1630, of lands in the manor belonging to 'the Right Worthy Mr. Francis Cheyne Esq.'.

²⁹ *V.C.H. Bucks.* iii, 219. He was created Viscount Newhaven in 1681.

³⁰ *Recov. R. Trin.* 1655, rot. 107.

³¹ *Bridges*, loc. cit.

³² *Feet of F. Northants.* Trin. 30 Chas. II.

³³ *Ibid.* Mich. 30 Chas. II.

³⁴ See below. ³⁵ *Bridges*, loc. cit.

³⁶ *Feet of F. Northants.* East. 22 Geo. II.

³⁷ *Visitation of Northants.* (Harl. Soc.), 165.

³⁸ In the following description use has been made of Mr. Albert Hartshorne's paper on the church (read February 26, 1903) in *Proc. Soc. Antiq.* (Ser. 2), xix, 227.

³⁹ 'The whole of the material for the church was probably taken from quarries on a site now known as "The Mortar Pits", about a quarter of a mile south-west of the building.'

⁴⁰ 'The restoration was carried out under the direction of Mr. C. Buckeridge, of London. The original east window had been replaced in the 17th century by a square-headed window of four lights, and about 1820 the chancel roof had been reduced to a very low pitch. A number of old benches 'with finialled ends of peculiar design' were taken as a type for the new seats, but the old benches were discarded: *Proc. Soc. Antiq.* (Ser. 2), xix, 244.

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The oldest part of the building is the south doorway, which dates from c. 1180, but no other trace of the church of that date has survived. This re-used doorway has a plain round arch of two square orders,¹ with hood-mould, the outer order on shafts with scalloped capitals and moulded bases.² The rebuilding of the church was begun at the east end about 1225, to which period the present chancel belongs, and later in the century (c. 1270–80) the nave and aisles were built, probably by Nicholas de Cogenhoe (d. 1281) whose arms are on the pillars of the arcades. The chapel on the north side of the chancel appears to have been erected early in the 14th century, perhaps by William de Cogenhoe (d. 1313), and c. 1350 the aisles were widened, the

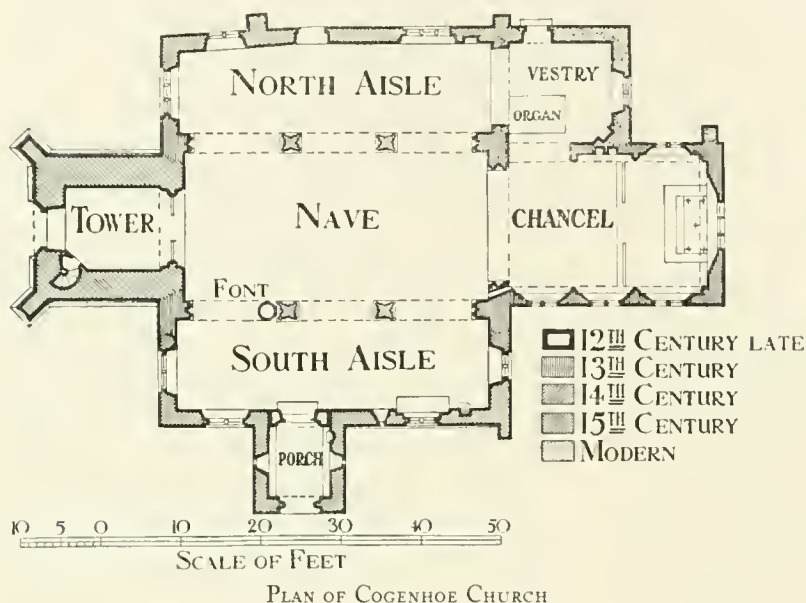
the pairs of lancet lights are divided by circular engaged shafts, or columns, with square moulded abaci carrying the rear arches, which rest at the ends on square corbels similarly treated. The circular bases of both the arcade and window shafts are moulded. Below the window in the eastern bay is a plain stone bench, or sedile, but there is no piscina. On the north side the window is near the east end and the arcade consists of two arches only, the westernmost bay having been pierced in the early 14th century by a low arch to the chapel,⁶ and in the middle blank bay are three aumbries, an upper one with trefoiled head beneath a hood-mould, and two plain rectangular ones below, forming a single architectural composition.⁷ The

pointed chancel arch is contemporary with the nave arcades; it is of two chamfered orders with a hood-mould towards the nave, and on the capitals of the responds are the faces of a knight and lady.⁸

The late-13th-century nave arcades consist of three pointed arches of two chamfered orders with hood-mould on one side, on pillars which are square on plan with an attached shaft at each angle and a hollow in the face of the intervening spaces. The responds are of similar character. The shafts have separate moulded capitals, in the spaces between which are shields and grotesque heads, each pillar having thus four shields or heads and each respond one: the necking goes round the

whole of the pillar. In all there are ten shields, and, with two exceptions, these are confined to the easternmost pillars and responds. In all other cases the spaces are occupied by grotesque heads. The shield on the west side of the south-west pier is blank, and (a) the arms of Cogenhoe (a fesse between three mascles) occur on four of the others. The other armorial shields are as follows: (b) ermine a chief indented (Morteyne); (c) barry of ten a bend (Pabenharn); (d) a bend sinister (probably meant for Hastings); (e) a fesse and in chief three martlets (possibly Cheyne); and (f) in chief two human hands displayed (unknown).⁹

On the west side of the south-east pillar is a mutilated holy water stoup supported by a draped figure,¹⁰ and in the usual position at the east end of the south aisle there is a small trefoiled piscina recess, wholly restored, without bowl. The pointed 14th-century windows of the south aisle are of two trefoiled lights with quatrefoil in the head, but the tracery is modern: a square-headed two-light window at the east end is placed high in the



PLAN OF COGENHOE CHURCH

north aisle being brought into line with the chapel. The porch was added about the same time, and in the 15th century a tower was built at the west end, a clerestory added to the nave, and two windows inserted in the north aisle.

The 13th-century chancel³ is lighted by three pairs of lancet windows on the south side and a single pair on the north, all with plainly chamfered jambs and dripstones following the line of the heads. The modern east window is a gradated triplet of similar lancets. Internally, however, the work is of a more elaborate character. The north and south walls are arcaded and the rear arch of the original east window, which is continued to the ground, has banded shafts with moulded capitals and bases. The south wall-arcade consists of three pointed arches resting on triple attached shafts, the capitals of which have square abaci, and on single shafted responds.⁴ The arches are of a single chamfered order, with chamfered hood-mould, and the capitals are quite plain, with round neckings.⁵ Within the arches

¹ The arch of the outer order is a true semicircle, but that of the inner order is slightly pointed: the jambs are square below the impost. The hood has one edge roll.

² The bases have a triple roll.

³ A buttress at the east end of the north wall is modern.

⁴ The shafts of the responds and the middle shaft of the triplets are filleted.

⁵ An elevation, plan, and details of the south arcade are given in Sharpe's *Chs. of the Nene Valley*, plates 28–9.

⁶ *Proc. Soc. Antiq.* (Ser. 2), xix, 236.

⁷ The upper opening was probably also used as an Easter sepulchre, but all three are rebated. They were fitted with doors in 1920. The lower openings are 20 in. by 13 in., the upper one 27 in. by 16 in.

⁸ They occupy a position similar to that

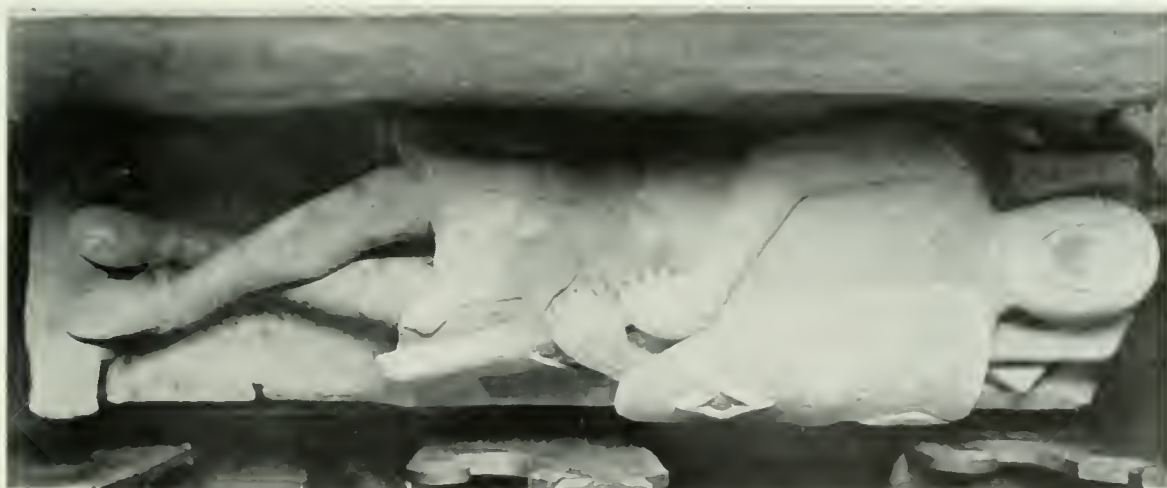
of the shields in the nave arcades (q.v.).

⁹ The identifications are those given by Hartshorne, op. cit. 238–43, where all the shields are figured.

¹⁰ The basin and figure are worked on the two lower stones of the pillar, the total height above the floor being 4 ft. The figure is 19 in. high. The basin is broken away. The position is near to the south doorway.



COGENHOE CHURCH, FROM THE SOUTH-EAST



COGENHOE CHURCH: EFFIGY OF SIR NICHOLAS DE COGENHOE

wall¹ and has a wooden lintel. Between the doorway and the window east of it is a small blocked trefoil-headed opening with wide internal splay, the purpose of which is uncertain, though it is usually classed as a low-side window,² and immediately east of the doorway is a plain bracket on a moulded corbel.

The late-14th-century porch has a low-pitched gable and pointed outer arch of two chamfered orders, the inner order on half-octagonal responds with moulded capitals, the outer continuous: above is a niche, now blocked. In the north-east angle of the porch there is a later stoup with mutilated basin.

The plain round-headed doorway of the north aisle may not be older than the pointed window west of it, which is of two cinquefoiled lights with quatrefoil in the head, but the window in the west wall is of three lights with modern Perpendicular tracery. The other 15th-century window, which is at the east end of the north wall, is square-headed and of three trefoiled lights, the mullions and tracery new. Farther east in the north wall is a plain oblong recess, or locker, about 3 ft. above the floor.³ The arch between the aisle and the north chapel is in part old, the original jambs on the west side having filleted shafts at the angles, with moulded capitals. The chapel is under a separate high-pitched gabled roof.

The clerestory has three square-headed windows of two trefoiled lights on each side. The carved corbels of the old nave roof remain in position, five on each side, those on the south a series of human heads, while those on the north side include an ox's head, a muzzled bear, and the head of a bishop.⁴ The low-pitched east gable has a pinnacle at each angle and at its apex a carved stone, said to have been the head of a churchyard cross, remains of which stood by the path to the porch.⁵ The four sides of the cross-head, which is of 14th-century date, have trefoiled niches containing original sculpture—on the east the Father seated holding between his knees the crucified Son, on the west a Crucifixion with attendant figures, and in the smaller niches north and south figures of St. Peter and St. Paul.⁶

The 15th-century tower, which is faced with finely dressed stone, is of three stages marked by strings, the lofty upper stage being slightly set back. It has a moulded plinth and diagonal buttresses on the west side to the top of the second stage, and terminates in a battlemented parapet, the pinnacles of which were removed in 1870. The four-centred moulded west doorway is set in a square frame, with blank shields in the spandrels, and above it, breaking through the first string,

is a tall four-centred window of three cinquefoiled lights and Perpendicular tracery. Over this, in the second stage, is a rectangular traceried opening. The middle stage has a plain pointed opening on the south side and a four-centred doorway to the nave roof on the east. The tall pointed bell-chamber windows are of two cinquefoiled lights with quatrefoil in the head and cusped transoms at mid-height: the hood-mould is taken round the tower at the level of the spring of the arches. There is a vice in the south-west angle. The lofty pointed tower arch is of two chamfered orders,⁷ the outer continuous and the inner on half-octagonal responds with moulded capitals and bases.

The font consists of a plain cylindrical bowl 14½ in. high, chamfered round the top, on a double masonry base: the flat cover is modern. The pulpit and other fittings are modern.

The late-13th-century effigy of Nicholas de Cogenhoe in the south aisle has already been described.⁸

At the west end of the north aisle is part of a stone coffin, and a small coffin-shaped hollowed stone, 2 ft. in length, possibly for a heart burial.⁹

In a glazed frame in the south aisle is a piece of fringed needlework in colour on fine canvas, temp. Henry VIII, which may have been the upper side of a long cushion for the sedile,¹⁰ and in the north aisle is hung a large cloth of coarse canvas covered with a repeating design in many coloured cruels, apparently of Elizabethan date, which may have served as a riddel, or curtain in the chancel.¹¹

There is a scratch dial on one of the east jamb stones of the porch, and another on the west jamb of the window east of the porch.

The east end of the south aisle is occupied by a 'shrine' in memory of fourteen men of the parish who fell in the war of 1914-18.

There is a ring of six bells cast in 1909 by A. Bowell of Ipswich.¹²

The plate consists of a 17th-century cup and paten (c. 1682) with the maker's mark EB linked, and a flagon of 1743 inscribed 'Cooknoe 1743. The Gift of Bradley Whalley Rector of this Church.' There is also a plated bread-holder c. 1790.¹³

The registers before 1812 are as follows: (i) all entries 1558-1657; (ii) 1661-1754; (iii) baptisms and burials 1755-1812; (iv) marriages 1754-1808; (v) marriages 1808-12.

A well-bound copy of the Great Bible printed by Robert Barker in 1617 and purchased in 1631 is in use in the church.¹⁴ The parish also possesses a volume

¹ Its sill is 10 ft. above the floor.

² *Assoc. Arch. Soc. Rep.* xxix, 395. The opening is 19 in. high and 7 in. wide, splaying out inside to 25 in., the splays being equal. The sill is 2 ft. 10 in. above the floor and there is a flat lintel inside. The position is opposite the south-east pillar, and it has been suggested that the 'bracket' (stoup) attached to the pillar and the opening in the wall were 'intentionally connected': *Arch. Journ.* lxxii, 28.

³ It is 22 in. long, 17 in. high, and 13 in. deep, but is not rebated.

⁴ The other two are a grotesque head and a bearded face.

⁵ Markham (*Six Stone Crosses of Northants.* 49), writing in 1901, says they 'were in existence some forty years ago'.

⁶ Markham, *op. cit.* 43. The stone, which is much perished, is 25 in. high and

rectangular on plan, the east and west being 13 in. wide, and the north and south faces 9½ in.

⁷ On the west side there is a third order dying into the wall high up. The bells are rung from the ground floor.

⁸ *V.C.H. Northants.* i, 396. It lies on the floor, below the south-east window.

⁹ It is roughly 'triangular' in shape, being 16 in. wide at one end and 7 in. at the other. The coffins were found on the site of the chapel in 1870.

¹⁰ Hartshorne, MS. notes. It measures 37 in. by 18 in. and consists of a set of red and white roses. It was cleaned in 1902 by Mr. Hartshorne and mounted on a board.

¹¹ Hartshorne, MS. notes. It measures 5 ft. 10 in. by 4 ft. 4 in. It was repaired

and restored in 1902.

¹² There were formerly three bells, the treble and tenor by Henry Bagley 1678, the second blank. In 1909 these were recast and three new bells added. The inscriptions on the old bells are given in North, *Ch. Bells of Northants.* 224.

¹³ Markham, *Ch. Plate of Northants.* 74. The Rev. Bradley Whalley died in June 1743, and in his will directed that a large silver coffee pot be sold or exchanged and its value laid out in purchasing 'a flagon of a full quart or more' for the church within one year of his decease.

¹⁴ It was new bound by the churchwardens in 1649 in elm boards covered with leather and with two sets of brass corners and bosses. It was brought again into use in 1902.

A HISTORY OF NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

of fifteen manuscript sermons preached at Cogenhoe church by Francis Smyth, rector 1637-56.¹

The first mention of the church *ADVOWSON* found is in 1238, when it was descending with the manor (q.v.), three Cogenhoses being rectors in the 14th century, William, Nicholas, and William son of Sir Giles.² It descended with the manor until about 1678 when the Bonds conveyed it to Samuel Freeman,³ probably trustee for the Whalley family, as, according to Bridges, Peter Whalley, who was rector in 1656 and died 1701, purchased it from the Bonds.⁴ Jane Whalley, widow, presented in 1701.⁵ Bradley Whalley,⁶ patron in 1720, dying in 1743, left the advowson in trust for his kinsman Eyre Whalley to William Freeman, who presented that year.⁷ Palmer Whalley presented 1762,⁸ and then the

incumbency and patronage are again often found in the same person. John Watkin clerk presented in 1786, George Watkin, clerk, in 1796, and Edward Watkin in 1812;⁹ the last-named received a conveyance of the rectory from Henry Locock in 1813.¹⁰ R. Rogers, rector till 1863, had acquired the patronage by 1861 and George Burnham of Wollaston by 1863. George Burnham presented in 1864 C. H. Burnham, who had succeeded him by 1883 as patron.¹¹ His widow presented 1903-20; and from 1921 to the present time it has been in the gift of Mr. W. Lane-Claypon.¹²

William de Cogenhoe founded a chantry for one priest to sing at Our Lady's altar.¹³ Its property was estimated at 67s. 4d. in 1535,¹⁴ and sold to William Cecil and Laurence Eiresbie in 1549.¹⁵

COLLINGTREE

Colentreu (xi cent.); Colintre (xiii-xiv cent.); Colyntrough (xiv-xv cent.).

Collingtree is a small parish of only 688 acres, about a third of which is devoted to pasture. It has a soil of

ft.; south aisle, 12 ft. 8 in. wide; south porch, and west tower, 8 ft. 4 in. by 9 ft. 2 in., all these measurements being internal. The width across nave and aisle is 31 ft. A former north aisle was taken down in 1808,¹⁶

but its arcade, *CHURCH* walled up, was left standing.

The building was extensively restored in 1871-3, when the chancel roof was renewed, and again in 1891 when the organ-chamber was erected, and in 1929 the roofs of the nave and aisle were restored, as much as possible of the old timber being re-used. The walling generally is of coursed limestone, but the tower is of rubble. The chancel roof is slated, and that of the nave (which is of very low pitch) leaded. There are straight parapets to the chancel and nave, but the lead of the aisle overhangs. Internally the walls have been stripped of

plaster, except in the chancel.

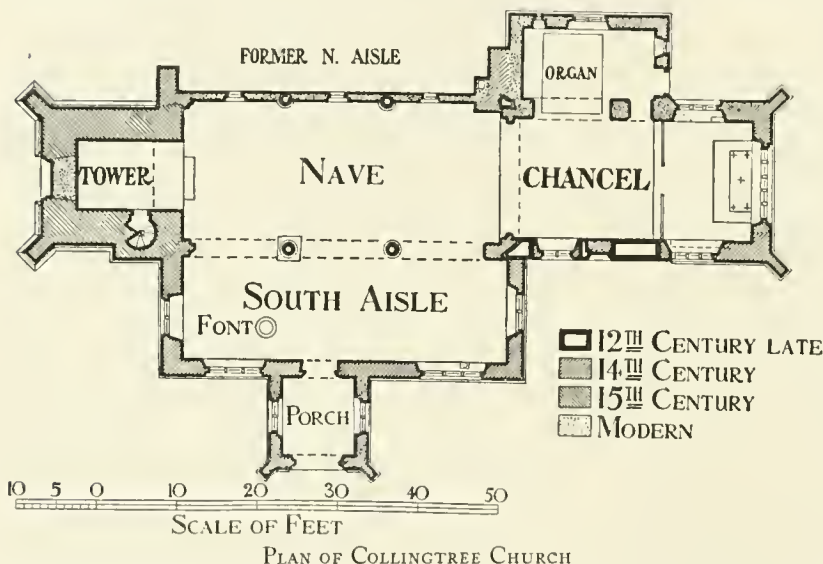
The pillars of the nave arcades are of late-12th-century date, and the doorway in the south wall of the chancel is of the same period. The 12th-century church, therefore, consisted of a chancel and aisled nave, but it was largely rebuilt in the latter part of the 14th century, when the chancel was lengthened and the aisles rebuilt and widened. The tower and clerestory, the east window of the chancel, and one on the north side all belong to the early 15th century. A blocked doorway in the north wall of the chancel indicates a former chapel or sacristy.

clay and light loam, the subsoil being clay and sand, which produces good crops of wheat and barley.

A large two-story house at the south end of the village, faced with alternate courses of ironstone and limestone, has a panel in its dormer gable inscribed 'A.M. 1684'.

The manorial history of Collingtree is inseparable from that of Milton Malzor, and has been included under that parish.

The church of *ST. COLUMBA* consists of chancel, 28 ft. 6 in. by 14 ft. 6 in. with vestry and organ-chamber on its north side; clerestoried nave, 39 ft. by 16



¹ It came into the possession of the Rev. C. H. Hartshorne about 1842 when he was in charge of the parish (1839-54). On his death in 1865 it was presented to Cogenhoe by his widow. The binding was repaired in 1902 and a case made for the book: A. Hartshorne, MS. notes.

² Bridges, op. cit. i, 349.

³ See above.

⁴ Loc. cit.

⁵ Inst. Bks. (P.R.O.).

⁶ Bridges, loc. cit.

⁷ Ibid.; *Northants. N. & Q.* v, 173-4.

⁸ Bacon, *Lib. Reg.* 832.

⁹ Inst. Bks. (P.R.O.); Gilbert, *Clerical Guide* (1836).

¹⁰ Feet of F. Northants. Mich. 54 Geo. III.

¹¹ *Clergy Lists*.

¹² Crockford, *Cler. Dir.*

¹³ Bridges, loc. cit. Roger de Cogenhoe was chaplain in 1342: *Cal. Pat.* 1340-3, p. 478.

¹⁴ *Valor Eccles.* (Rec. Com.), iv, 330.

¹⁵ *Cal. Pat. Edw. VI*, ii, 355. Bridges, loc. cit., suggested that it was in a chapel entered by the blocked arch north of the chancel.

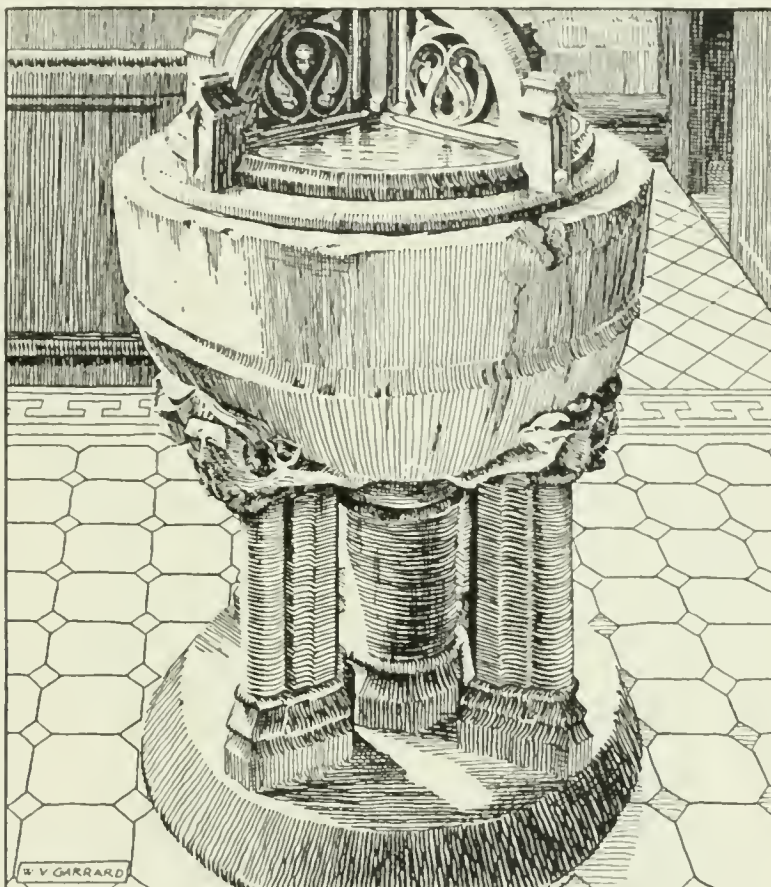
¹⁶ The faculty for taking down the aisle is dated 23 March 1808.

The chancel has a chamfered plinth and diagonal angle buttresses of two stages. There are no lateral buttresses or strings. On its north side the chancel is covered for more than half its length by the organ-chamber and vestry. The four-centred east window is of five cinquefoiled lights with traceried head and hood-mould, and at the east end of the north wall is a three-light window of the same character. Both have double hollow-chamfered jambs, but the upper part of the east window has been restored. In the south wall are two pointed windows, the easternmost of three cinquefoiled lights with the mullions crossing in the head, tracery,¹ and hood-mould, and that to the west of two trefoiled lights with a quatrefoil in the head, and hood-mould with head-stops: these windows have double wave-moulded jambs and are placed high in the wall. Below the westernmost, but not connected with it, is a small rectangular low-side window, probably of the same date, the sill and head of which are chamfered and the jambs wave-moulded. Internally it has a flatly pointed rear-arch, and is now filled with a modern iron casement.² The late-12th-century priest's doorway, now blocked, has a plain round arch of a single square order, with hood-mould, springing from plain imposts, below which the jambs are chamfered.³ East of this is a wide external sepulchral wall recess, with semi-circular chamfered arch and hood-mould, apparently contemporary with the doorway.⁴ Internally, in the usual position in the south wall, are triple sedilia under trefoiled ogee arches, the hood-moulds of which have head-stops and finials: the arches and dividing shafts and jambs are moulded, and the seats are on one level. There is no piscina.

In the north wall, below the window, is a rectangular aumbry, and a little farther west the blocked doorway already referred to. There is a modern doorway to the vestry and an arch to the organ-chamber. The pointed chancel arch is of two hollow-chamfered orders, with hood-mould on the nave side, springing from half-octagonal responds with moulded capitals and bases. Close to the south respond, in the chancel wall, is a blocked rectangular opening about 3 ft. above the floor, which appears to have been a squint,⁵ but there is no indication of it in the aisle. All the chancel fittings are modern. There is no screen.

The south arcade of the nave consists of three pointed arches of two chamfered orders, springing from cylindrical pillars with circular moulded bases, from a

moulded impost at the east end, and at the west from a half-octagonal respond with moulded capital and base. The capital of the easternmost pillar has a square abacus and is plainly shaped below the moulding, but the moulded capital of the second pillar is circular throughout and the base moulding stands on a square plinth 10 in. high. The arches and the west respond are apparently part of the 14th-century reconstruction: the arches have a hood-mould on the nave side only. The north arcade is of similar design: the blocking masonry leaves part of the pillars exposed internally



COLLINGTON: THE FONT

and in each bay there is a single-light trefoiled window. A blocked rood-loft doorway remains in the nave, north of the chancel arch.

The aisle is without buttresses and is lighted on the south by two square-headed windows of three trefoiled lights, one on each side of the porch, and at the east and west ends by similar windows of two lights. All these windows have hood-moulds and double-chamfered jambs, but are much restored. The pointed south doorway has a continuous double ogee moulding, and above it is a trefoil-headed niche. In the usual position is a piscina with shouldered head and circular bowl.

There are three plain square-headed two-light clerestory windows above the south arcade, but none on the north side.

¹ The head and tracery have been renewed.

² *Assoc. Arch. Soc. Rep.* xxix, 397. The opening is 2 ft. 4 in. by 14 in., and the height of the sill from the ground outside

is 3 ft. 3 in.

³ The opening is 2 ft. 3 in. wide. The imposts are moulded on their inner faces. There are two scratch dials on the west jamb stones.

⁴ It is 6 ft. 5 in. wide, 12 in. deep, and about 3 ft. 6 in. high. There is no record of its having contained an effigy.

⁵ The opening is 12½ in. high and 16 in. wide.

A HISTORY OF NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

The tower is of three stages divided by strings, and has a moulded plinth and diagonal angle buttresses of four stages on the west side. The four-centred west doorway is now blocked: it has a continuous-moulded arch, square hood-mould, and carved spandrels, and above it is a tall pointed window of two trefoiled lights and vertical tracery. The two lower stages on the north and south are blank, but in the second stage on the west side is a small square-headed opening. There is a projecting vice in the south-east corner. The pointed bell-chamber windows are of two trefoiled lights with quatrefoil in the head, and the tower terminates in a battlemented parapet. The lofty pointed arch to the nave is the full width of the tower, its three chamfered orders dying into the wall on each side. There are two steps up from the nave to the floor of the tower.

The fine late-13th-century font has a circular bowl on a central column with moulded top and base, and four moulded legs, or shafts, the junctions of which with the bowl are carved with grotesque faces and vigorous animal forms.

The oak pulpit and other fittings are modern. In the chancel is a brass tablet in memory of Horatio Woodhouse (d. 1679), who was rector for nearly thirty-seven years.¹ There is a memorial on the south wall of the aisle to four men of the parish who fell in the war of 1914-19.

There are five bells in the tower, a new tenor by Taylor & Co. of Loughborough having been added in 1915 to a former ring of four, the first three of which were at the same time recast. The old fourth bell is inscribed 'Sit Nomen Domini Benedictum', and is probably by a 15th-century London maker.²

The communion plate, which included a cup and cover paten of 1570,³ was stolen in 1907, and was replaced by a new cup and paten in the same year. There is also a paten of 1919, and a pewter flagon.

Bridges, writing about 1720, says that the registers were 'consumed in a fire which broke out in the parson-

age house some years ago and burned a considerable part of the town'.⁴ In the earliest existing book, which from damp and other causes has become almost illegible, the earliest date that can be read is 1719 and the latest 1764. There is also a volume of marriages 1754-1812, and a fragmentary volume from January 1787 to 1811.

The churchwardens' accounts begin in 1638 and continue, with gaps, until 1854; there are constables' accounts from 1680 to 1795, and overseers' accounts 1733-1808.

The church possesses a copy of the Book of Homilies 1623, and imperfect copies (titles missing) of the 'Paraphrase' of Erasmus, and Jewel's 'Apology'.

The jointadvowsons of the churches *ADVOWSON* of Collingtree and Milton Malzor were held as two moieties until some time after 1441, when Collingtree came to be considered the possession of Thomas Wake who had formerly held one of the moieties. It passed from the Wake family with the manor they held in Milton and Collingtree to Oliver Wood and followed the same descent as that manor until sold by Francis Foxley to Francis Hervey in 1606.⁵ The Hervey family seem to have retained possession of the advowson until the middle years of the eighteenth century, since when it has changed hands several times. It was purchased in 1871 by Mr. Pickering Phipps,⁶ and is now in the gift of the executors of Mrs. Phipps.

The Methodists have a place of worship in the village.

Church Estate. The rent of about *CHARITIES* 6 acres of land in this parish, amounting to £12 in 1935, is paid to the churchwardens and applied towards church expenses.

Reading room and Institute. By an indenture dated 1 December 1914 property was conveyed to the Peterborough Diocesan Trustees to be used by the inhabitants of this parish as a Reading room and Institute, and the rector and churchwardens were appointed trustees.

COURTEENHALL

Cortenhale (xi cent.); Curtehala, Cortehalle (xii cent.); Kortinhale, Cortenhalle (xiii cent.); Cortnall, Cawtnoll, Curtenhall (xvi cent.); Courtenhall (xvii cent.); Courtnall (1702).

The parish of Courteenhall is 1,601 acres in extent, about 425 acres of which are arable; the soil varies between the Oolite and Lias formations; the subsoil is clay and sand. The chief crops produced are wheat, oats, and roots. In 1884 a small detached part of Wootton parish was added to Courteenhall. The village, which consists of 18 houses (exclusive of outlying farms and cottages), stands a mile from the main road from London to Northampton. It has diminished in size since its inclosure in the 17th century. Bridges, writing between 1719 and 1724, says of the church, 'It is now seated at the upper end of the town, but within the memory of man had many houses standing beyond and

about it, which since the enclosure of the parish have been destroyed.'⁷

There was a school at Courteenhall in 1593, but nothing is known of its previous history. It had ceased to exist in 1672, when Sir Samuel Jones by his will left an annuity of £100 towards the maintenance of a schoolmaster and usher in the parish, together with £500 for the adaptation of a farm-house as the master's and usher's dwelling, and for the erection of a Free School. The school was for the children of Courteenhall and within 4 miles compass thereof. The last master under the old foundation died in 1898. The school building lies in the park west of the church, and is constructed of roughly coursed limestone, with dressings of local ironstone and red tiled roofs. The two-storied⁸ middle portion, in which there is a good oak well staircase,⁹ was the dwelling-house of the

¹ He was a younger son of Colonel Henry Woodhouse of Waxham, Norfolk.

² North, *Ch. Bells of Northants.* 226, where the inscriptions on the old bells are given. The first and second were by James Keene of Woodstock 1621, and the third was probably by Thomas Newcombe II

of Leicester (1562-80). The new bells were first rung on November 11th, 1918.

³ Markham, *Ch. Plate of Northants.* 75.

⁴ *Hist. of Northants.* i, 351.

⁵ Feet of F. Northants. Mich. 4 Jas. I.

⁶ Whellan, *Hist. Northants.* 255.

⁷ Bridges, *Hist. Northants.* i, 353.

⁸ There are also attics in the roof, lighted by dormer windows.

⁹ The stairs go up to the attics. They have panelled risers, square flat-topped newels, and twisted balusters.



COURTEENHALL: THE OLD SCHOOL



COURTEENHALL: THE STABLES AND HOUSE



COURTEENHALL: THE HALL

schoolmaster, and the usher lived in the smaller east wing. The school-house occupied the whole of the larger west wing, which measures internally about 45 ft. by 20 ft. The doorway is at the north end and the fireplace in the middle of the long east wall. Opposite are three tall square-headed two-light windows and the room is further lighted from the south end, and from each end of the east wall. The original fittings round the walls, and the desk at the south end remain, and over the doorway, outside, is this inscription:

Hoc
Musarum domicilium
Juventuti ad quatuor millia
circumvicinae gratis erudiendae
SAMUELIS JONES Militis
munificentissimi literarum patroni
sumptibus conditum dotatumq:
HENRICVS EDMUNDS & FRANCISCVS CRANE
Armigeri juxta Testamenti
fidem absolverunt
A.D. 1680.

There is also an inscription at the north end of the east wing, as follows: 'Aediculam hanc proprijs sumptibus struxit ROBERTVS ASHBRIDGE primus hujus Scholae Moderator A.D. 1688.' In 1923 the east wing was altered for use as an elementary school, a purpose it still serves, the mistress residing in the middle portion of the building, while the west wing is used as a Parish Institute. A Latin inscription, commemorating its restoration by Sir Hereward Wake, was placed over the door. In 1935 a pavilion, in the same style as the old building and connected to it, was added.

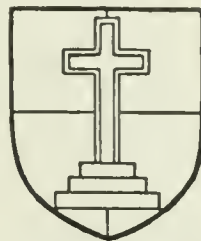
Of the manor-house, which according to Bridges was in part built by Richard Ouseley in 1580,¹ no part remains. The site is said to have been to the north of the church, between it and the present Courteenhall Hall, which is a large plain rectangular stone building of three stories, designed by Samuel Saxon, with cornice and slated hipped roofs, erected in 1790.² The entrance front is on the north, and there is a covered passage to the offices on the west side. The stables, about 200 yards south of the house, were built about 1750.

Richard Lane, the father of Sir Richard Lane, Lord Keeper of the Great Seal in the reign of Charles I, lived at Courteenhall, and lies buried with his wife, Elizabeth, in the parish church.

In 1086 William Peverel had 3½ hides *MANOR* in *COURTEENHALL*, with soc of another ½ hide and ½ virgate which Turstin held in Courteenhall.³ Peverel, who subsequently held 7 hides here and in Blisworth,⁴ gave his land in Courteenhall, except one fee held by Walter son of Winemar and the

land of Turstin Mantel, to Lenton Priory on its foundation at the beginning of the 12th century.⁵ To the same monastery Henry II gave 80 acres of essarts in Courteenhall in exchange for some other lands.⁶ In 1236 the prior of Lenton had rights of pasturage in Salcey Forest in right of his manor of Courteenhall,⁷ which was valued at £32 18s. 7d. per annum in 1291.⁸ The priory in 1330 successfully claimed view of frankpledge, assize of bread and ale, and other privileges in Courteenhall.⁹ The manor seems usually to have been let on lease by the priory.¹⁰

In 1538 the manor of Courteenhall was seized into the king's hands, with the other possessions of the priory,¹¹ and four years later was incorporated in the newly created honor of Grafton.¹² In 1550 it was let on lease for 21 years to Reynold Conyers.¹³ On the expiration of his lease in 1571, Queen Elizabeth leased Courteenhall to Richard Ouseley, a clerk of the Privy Seal, at a rent of £30.¹⁴ The manor was then 'all tillage, little or no pasture, and no wood', its yearly value being £90,¹⁵ and the tenants having hedgebote, ploughbote, cartbote, and firebote. Richard Ouseley grumbled constantly at the ill repair of the manor-house and farm buildings,¹⁶ complaining that he had spent £700 in repairing them and that he had the manor 'with so great chardges and smale benefit as I had bin happie yf I had never knowne it for I have spent uppon it and about it in buildinge and otherwise more than twice the purchase of yt in fee simple, but I never had this worldlie luck in anie thinge'.¹⁷ His offer to purchase the fee simple was apparently accepted. He died early in 1599, his will being proved on 13 March.¹⁸ He was succeeded by his son Sir John Ouseley, who married



LENTON PRIORY. Quarterly or and azure a Calvary cross or fimbriated and stepped sable.

Martha daughter of Bartholomew Tate of Delapré.¹⁹ In 1647 their eldest son Richard conveyed the manor to Timothy Middleton and Thomas Thynne,²⁰ from whom it passed to Sir Samuel Jones, the son of a London merchant, who became a Shropshire gentleman and was sheriff of that county in 1663.²¹ Sir Samuel died without issue in 1672, leaving his whole estate to his sister's grandson, Samuel, fifth son of Sir William Wake, 3rd baronet, on condition of his taking the surname Jones. Samuel Wake-Jones died in 1712,²²



JONES. Argent a lion vert wounded gules in the breast.

¹ *Hist. of Northants.* i, 352. The initials of Richard Ouseley and his wife, with the date 1580, were on the porch, and also on a large barn dated 1572.

² The south elevation and plans of the principal and first floors are engraved in Richardson's *Fitzwalter Britannicus* (1802-8), plates LXVII and LXVIII. The engravings are dated 26 December 1801.

³ *P.C.H. Northants.* i, 337, 339. It seems probable that the ½ hide held by Turstin was not in Courteenhall but in Somersdale, as given in the Northamptonshire Survey. The land was afterwards reckoned as in Roade.

⁴ *Ibid.* 375.

⁵ *Mon. Anglie.* v, iii. In the charter it

is described as 'Corthahala in Hantesyra'. The grants of William Peverel to Lenton Priory were confirmed by a charter of Henry I (1107-13) now in the Bibliothèque Nationale, a facsimile of which is given in *Northants. Record Soc. Publications*, iv (ed. by F. M. Stenton, 1930), ii, 159. Professor Stenton gives his reasons for doubting the authenticity of that quoted in *Mon. Anglie*.

⁶ *Cal. Chart.* iii, 316.

⁷ *Cal. Close*, 1234-7, p. 286.

⁸ *Pope Nich. Tax.* (Rec. Com.), 536.

⁹ *Plac. de Quo Warr.* (Rec. Com.), 576.

¹⁰ *Cal. Pat.* 1324-7, p. 56; *ibid.* 1340-3, p. 436.

¹¹ *Chan. Inq.* p.m. (Ser. 2), xxviii, 97.

Cf. P.C.H. Notts. ii, 99.

¹² *Stat. of the Realm*, 33 Hen. VIII, cap. 38.

¹³ *Acts of P. C.* 1550-2, p. 229.

¹⁴ *Pat.* 13 Eliz. pt. 6.

¹⁵ *Cal. S.P. Add.* 1566-79, p. 561.

¹⁶ *Ibid.* pp. 502, 561, 568.

¹⁷ *P.C.H. Northants. Families*, 326.

¹⁸ *Ibid.*

¹⁹ Metcalfe, *Hist. Northants.* 190.

²⁰ Feet of F. Northants. Hil. 22 Chas. I.

²¹ Bridges, *Hist. Northants.* i, 353. See an article on the Berwick Almshouses, founded by Sir Samuel Jones, in *Shrops. Arch. Soc. Publ.* xli.

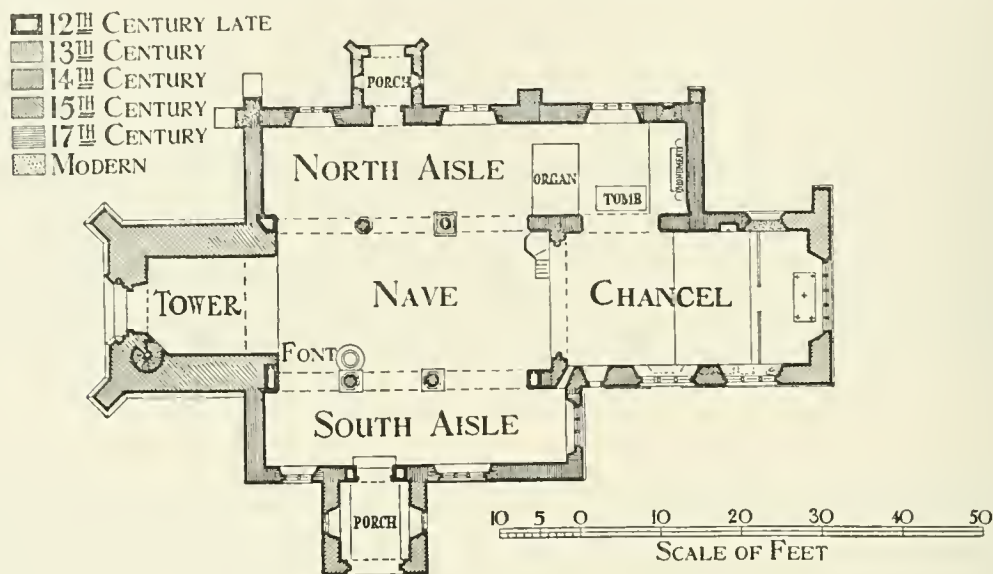
²² *P.C.H. Northants. Families*, 330.

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and left the property to his nephew Charles Wake, younger son of his brother Baldwin. Born early in 1701, he was a minor at the time of his uncle's death. He took the name and arms of Jones about 1718, and married Elizabeth, daughter and co-heir of Sir Samuel Sambrooke. He died on 22 March 1740 without issue.¹ Under his uncle's will the property passed to his elder brother Charles who took the name and arms of Jones, and succeeded his grandfather Sir Baldwin Wake as baronet in 1747. Sir Charles Wake Jones, 6th bart., died without issue on 27 January 1755 and was buried at Courteenhall.² The manor passed to Sir William Wake, 7th bart., who was the son of the Rev. Robert Wake, Dean of Bocking, Essex, the fourth son of Sir William Wake, 3rd bart.³ The Wake family

exception of the porches the roofs are all leaded and of low pitch behind straight parapets: in the chancel the lead overhangs the east gable. The south porch is slated and the north porch tiled. Internally the plaster has been stripped from the walls.⁵

The earliest church appears to have been an aisled late-12th-century structure, evidences of which remain in the north arcade, the south doorway, and elsewhere. In the 13th century the building was largely reconstructed, and in the 14th century the chancel appears to have been rebuilt on its present plan, and the south porch added. The tower is of 15th-century date; a blocked round-headed opening on the east side suggests the retention of some part at least of a late-12th-century tower, but it may be an old feature re-used.



PLAN OF COURTEENHALL CHURCH

have held Courteenhall manor in direct descent since that date, the present owner being Major-General Sir Hereward Wake, 13th baronet.

The church of *ST. PETER AND ST. CHURCH PAUL* consists of chancel, 30 ft. 4 in. by 16 ft. 6 in.; nave, 33 ft. 9 in. by 17 ft. 3 in.; north and south aisles, 11 ft. 3 in. wide; north and south porches, and west tower 12 ft. square, all these measurements being internal. The north aisle covers the chancel for about half its length.

The building has been several times restored. In 1883 the chancel, nave, and aisles were refloored with red tiles and the pews replaced by chairs, and there were further restorations in 1897 and 1912. The ground falls from south to north, and there is a tendency in the building to settle in that direction.⁴ In 1895 the north arcade was underpinned and timber buttresses put across the north aisle, the outer wall of which was strengthened.

The building generally is of limestone rubble, with ironstone dressings to the windows and in the quoins of the tower; the south porch is of ironstone. With the

The church was extensively repaired under the terms of the will of Sir Samuel Jones (d. 1672), who left £500 for that purpose and for increasing the number of the bells: to this period the existing aisle windows belong, and the east window was at the same time altered. A north porch may then have been added, but the present porch is wholly restored or modern.

The chancel is without buttresses, except at the north-east angle, and has a chamfered plinth, and a string at sill level. In the south wall are two 14th-century pointed windows⁶ of three cusped lights, the mullions crossing in the head, and with double wave-moulded jambs. The sill and moulded jambs of the five-light east window are still in position, but in the 17th century its pointed head was replaced by a square one with round-headed lights,⁷ and this in its turn has given place to the present pointed traceried arch. There is a smaller blocked 14th-century window at the east end of the north wall, and at the south-west corner of the chancel is a tall 14th-century single-light trefoiled low-side window.⁸ Below the westernmost of the two south windows is a priest's doorway, now blocked, with

¹ *V.C.H. Northants. Families*, 330.

² *Ibid.* 329.

³ *Ibid.* 331.

⁴ Sir Henry Dryden's MS. in Northampton Public Library.

⁵ A water-colour drawing of the interior, which hangs in the church, shows

the walls plastered, plaster ceilings to chancel and nave, square box-pews, and a three-decker pulpit. The drawing is undated, but is before 1883.

⁶ The sills are 5 ft. 6 in. above the plinth. The mullions are moulded and the hood-

moulds have mask stops.

⁷ Shown in the drawing of the church before referred to.

⁸ *Assoc. Arch. Soc. Rep.* xxix, 339. The sill is 3 ft. 10 in. above the floor. The opening is 14 in. wide splaying internally to 3 ft.

slightly ogree head, hood-mould, and continuous wave moulding. Internally there is a string at sill level on the south side only, but it formerly was carried along the east wall. The 14th-century piscina and triple sedilia are below the south windows. The piscina has a trefoiled ogree head with blind tracery and crocketed hood-mould; the bowl slightly projects and has four orifices grouped round a four-leaved flower. The sedilia are on one level, under cinquefoiled ogree crocketed arches terminating in finials; the jambs and dividing shafts are covered with diaper ornament and there are blank shields in the spandrels. In the north wall is a double aumbry with plain pointed openings, the heads cut in one stone, and farther west a 13th-century pointed arch of two chamfered orders, the inner order on moulded corbels, which opens to the chapel at the east end of the north aisle. In the south-west corner of the chancel is a squint from the south aisle, with small rectangular opening, directed to the altar in the north chapel.¹ The pointed chancel arch is of two chamfered orders, the outer continuous, the inner springing from half-octagonal responds with moulded capitals and bases: the hood-mould has been mostly cut away.

The nave is of three bays, with pointed arches. On the north side the arches vary little in width,² but on the south their variation is considerable, the span increasing from west to east,³ the pillars thus being not opposite to one another. On the south side the arches are of a single square order slightly chamfered on the edges, springing from octagonal pillars with moulded capitals and bases, and at the ends from moulded imposts. The bases stand on square plinths, but both capitals and bases differ in their details.

The arches of the north arcade are of two chamfered orders, with hood-moulds, and spring at each end from 13th-century moulded corbels. The westernmost pillar, which is of the same period, is octagonal, with moulded capital and base,⁴ but the other is a late-12th-century cylindrical pillar, with circular moulded base on a square chamfered plinth and carved capital with square abacus: the carving represents early foliage. The sill alone of the rood-loft doorway remains at the east end of the nave north of the chancel arch.

The 17th-century windows of the aisles are all square-headed, with rounded⁵ lights and moulded jambs and mullions; those west of the porch are of two lights, the others of three, and in both aisles the west wall is blank. There are no ancient ritual arrangements in either aisle, but near the east end of the north aisle wall, in the former chapel, is a small square-headed low-side window, the sill of which is 4 ft. above the ground. There are buttresses only on the north. The south doorway has a round-arched head cut from a single stone, but is much restored, the plain outer order of the 'arch' being lined to represent vousoirs: it has a chamfered hood-mould and jambs. The plain narrow pointed north doorway has a single continuous chamfer.

The 14th-century south porch is plastered internally and has square-headed windows of two trefoiled lights and outer pointed arch of two wave-moulded orders

and hood-mould with head-stops: the inner order rests on half-octagonal responds with moulded capitals. There is no clerestory, but the nave wall above the arcades rises well above the aisle roof.

The tower is of three stages⁶ marked by strings, and has a moulded plinth and diagonal angle buttresses on the west side. The vice in the south-west corner has been filled in with concrete and access to the bell-chamber is now only by a ladder. The pointed west doorway is of two continuous moulded orders, and above it is a tall pointed window of two cinquefoiled lights; immediately over this again is a small single trefoiled opening. On the north and south sides the lower stage is blank, but there is a trefoiled opening higher up. The pointed bell-chamber windows are of two cinquefoiled lights with quatrefoil in the head, and the tower terminates with a battlemented parapet. The lofty pointed arch to the nave is the full width of the tower and of three chamfered orders dying into the wall. The floor of the tower is flagged.

The plain circular bucket-shaped font is apparently of 12th-century date; it is lead-lined and stands on a square masonry base.

The oak pulpit is modern. On the upper part of the westernmost pillar of the south arcade, immediately below the capital, are remains of three paintings, now protected by glass.⁷

It remains to notice the monuments in the former chapel on the north side of the chancel. The earliest of these is the table-tomb of Richard Ouseley (d. 1599) and his two wives, the first of whom was Jane Arden, widow of Sir Miles Partridge, who died without issue by him, and the second Magdalen, daughter of John Wake of Hartwell, by whom he had twelve children, and who died in 1607. The tomb is of freestone with panelled sides and ends containing blank shields, and a flat top; upon this, supporting a black marble slab, is a stone band 9½ in. high, round which, in two lines of Gothic lettering, runs the inscription recorded below. The marble slab bears the indents of brasses; they included a man in civil dress, two groups of children, a scroll, and a small figure at the top, which apparently was a representation of the Holy Trinity. The inscription begins on the north side of the tomb, finishing on the east, each of the two lines running round all four sides, but it forms twelve rhyming lines,⁸ as follows:

A Sallops Oseley I
A ruen Partridge woone
No birds I had her by
Such woeke with her was doone
She dead I turtle sought
A Wake in Salsie bred
Twice six birds she me brought
She lives hut I am dead.
But when ninth year was come
I sleapt that was a Wake
So yeildi(n)g to Death's doome
Did here my lodgi(n)g take.

The monument to Sir Samuel Jones (d. 1672) is against the east wall and is of black and white marble,

10 in., and its height is about 5 ft. The transom has been cut away and the whole opening glazed: see also Sir Henry Dryden's MS. notes in Northampton Public Library.

¹ On the chancel side the opening is 6 in. wide by 7 in. high, with cusped head, and towards the aisle 1 ft. 4 in. wide by 2 ft. 5 in. high. The squint is figured and discussed by Sir Henry Dryden in *Assoc.*

Arch. Soc. Rep. xxiii, 357.

² 9 ft. 9 in., 8 ft. 8 in., 9 ft. 4 in. from west to east.

³ 7 ft. 10 in., 8 ft. 7 in., 11 ft. 1½ in., from west to east.

⁴ There is no square plinth to the base, which is 21 in. high.

⁵ Except in the windows of the north chapel, where the lights are square-headed.

⁶ On the west side the lower stage is again divided by a string.

⁷ One represents a queen (or the Virgin crowned), and others female heads—one nimbed, the other with long hair. Each measures 9½ in. by 8 in.

⁸ In lines 1-8 the husband speaks, in lines 9-12 the second wife speaks. The tenth line is a pun.

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with broken pediment supported by Ionic columns,¹ and shields of arms. Below are kneeling figures of the knight and his first wife Mary Middleton, who predeceased him.² There is also a white marble wall tablet to Sir Charles Wake Jones (d. 1755) erected in 1767 by Sir William Wake, and in the chancel one to Henrietta, wife of Henry Grattan, who died in 1838. In the aisles are numerous 19th-century marble tablets to members of the Wake family, and in the tower three hatchments.³

There is a ring of five bells cast in 1683 by Henry Bagley of Chacombe.⁴

The plate consists of a cup and cover paten of 1603 engraved with the arms of Sir Samuel Jones, and a cup, paten, flagon, and bread-holder of 1870, presented by the parishioners.⁵

The registers before 1812 are as follows: (i) all entries Nov. 1538–Feb. 1672–3; (ii) Jan. 1672–3–Sept. 1760, marriages to 1754; (iii) baptisms 1794–1812, burials 1761–1812; (iv) marriages 1754–1812.

The advowson was apparently *ADVOWSON* given by William Peverel⁶ to the Cluniac priory of Lenton, and the grant was confirmed by the pope in 1205.⁷ The priory received a pension of $\frac{1}{2}$ mark from the church, the grant being confirmed by the Archbishop of Canterbury, at his visitation in 1319.⁸ The rectory was valued at £13 8s. 1d. in 1535, out of which 10s. 7d. was paid

to the Archdeacon of Northampton for procurations and synodals, and 6s. 8d. to the priory of Lenton.⁹ At the dissolution of the monasteries the right of patronage fell to the Crown, but in 1868 it was purchased by the lord of the manor and has since descended with it. Courteenhall had a staunch puritan rector in William Castell who was presented to the church in 1627. When Commissioners came to visit the church in 1637 and complained of the rails of the communion table, Castell refused to allow any alterations, 'saying there should be no new tricks put upon him, and that he could live as well in New England as here'. A statement of his irregularities in performance of divine worship was drawn up, stating, 'He made diminutions and alterations in the service, never wore surplice or hood, did not use the catechism in the Prayer Book, hindered the churchwardens from cancelling in the communion table, and was a quarreller and fighter on the bowling leys'.¹⁰

Sir Samuel Jones by his will proved *CHARITY* 4 January 1673 gave to the overseers of the poor a yearly sum of £20 issuing out of lands in Courteenhall, Quinton, Wootton Road, and Ashton to be employed to put out as apprentices three boys or girls, born in the parish. The charity is now regulated by a Scheme of the Charity Commissioners dated 1 February 1910, under the provisions of which the income amounting to about £27 yearly is applicable for apprenticing, &c.

DENTON

Dodintone (xi cent.); Dudintun (xii cent.); Parva Dudington (xiii cent.); Denynton (xiv cent.); Dodington *alias* Deynton (xvi cent.); Doddington Parva *alias* Nether Doddington (xvii cent.); Denton or Little Doddington (xviii cent.).

Denton is a parish on the road from Northampton to Bedford, 2 miles from the Horton station on the Northampton and Bedford branch of the L.M.S. railway. The soil is principally clay and the chief crops are cereals. There are woods in the south-east adjoining Yardley Chase. The parish lies mostly more than 300 ft. above the ordinance datum. Its area is 1,555 acres. The population in 1931 was 424.

A two-story thatched house on the west side of the village is dated 1606, and not far away is part of an old stone house with mullioned windows which was probably the manor-house. In an adjoining field is a circular dovehouse, built of limestone, with blue-slatted roof and cupola: its internal diameter at the ground level is 14 ft. 6 in., and it contains over 500 nesting places.¹¹

The only mention of a manor of *DEN-MANOR TON*, here called Little Dudyngton by

Yardley, during the medieval period occurs in two fines of 1346 whereby it was settled upon William of Brixworth, citizen of London, and John his

son for life with reversion to Sir Roger de Akeney and Joan his wife, and to the heirs of Joan.¹² This isolated reference stands unexplained.

In 1086, a half hide in Denton was held by Wine-mar of the Countess Judith,¹³ who held one hide as a member of Yardley Hastings,¹⁴ and 3 hides in Denton and Whiston were held by Ramsey Abbey,¹⁵ to which house they had been given by Brithnoth the Earl,¹⁶ who died in 991.¹⁷ By the 12th century the Countess's hide had passed to King David, while the fee of Ramsey Abbey in Denton consisted, apparently, of 1½ hides, namely 6 small virgates held by Walter fitz Winemar and 10 small virgates held by William de Whiston.¹⁸ It would seem that Winemar's half hide had been usurped by the Countess and recovered by Ramsey. But apparently William Peverel obtained possession before his forfeiture in 1155, as just about a century after the Domesday Survey the hidage of the Ramsey estates includes the land of Denton which William Peverel held but which was then in the King's hands and



RAMSEY ABBEY. *Or a bend azure with three rams' heads argent thereon.*

¹ The shafts are of black marble, with white marble capitals and bases.

² The inscription is given in Bridges, op. cit. i, 354.

³ They are those of Sir William Wake, 8th baronet (d. 1785); Sir William Wake, 9th baronet (d. 1846); and Sir Charles Wake, 10th baronet (d. 1864).

⁴ North, *Ch. Bells of Northants.* 234, where the inscriptions are given. In 1552 there were four great bells and a sanctus bell. Sir Samuel Jones in his will left

money for increasing the number of the bells from four to five.

⁵ Markham, *Ch. Plate of Northants.* 82.

⁶ Dugdale, *Mon. Angl.* v, 112. Doubts are expressed by Prof. Stenton (*Northants. Rec. Soc.* iv, 160) as to the authenticity of this second charter of William Peverel.

⁷ *Cal. Pap. Reg.* i, 18.

⁸ *Cal. Pat.* 1381–5, p. 187.

⁹ *Valor Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), iv, 330.

¹⁰ *Cal. S.P. Dom.* 1637, p. 382.

¹¹ *Northants. N. & Q.* N.S. i, 144. Its

height to the eaves is about 16 ft. 6 in., but the wall has three set-backs. The roof was renewed 'about sixty years ago' (from 1905).

¹² Feet of F. Northants, Edw. III, file 78, nos. 315, 321.

¹³ *V.C.H. Northants.* i, 354b.

¹⁴ *Ibid.* 351b.

¹⁵ *Ibid.* 319.

¹⁶ *Cart. Mon. de Ramesia* (Rolls Ser.), iii, 167.

¹⁷ *Dict. Nat. Biog.*

¹⁸ *V.C.H. Northants.* i, 376.



COURTFENNALL CHURCH, FROM THE NORTH-EAST
(From a drawing in the British Museum, c. 1820)



DENTON OLD CHURCH
(From a drawing in the British Museum, *c.* 1820)

at his disposal;¹ and evidently this went, with the rest of the Peverel honor, to the Earl of Ferrers. In 1229 William de Whiston² impleaded Walter de Preston to acquit him of services exacted by the Earl of Ferrers in Denton.³ Nicholas the Earl's serjeant held here in 1235-6 one third of a fee.⁴ Probably he was holding it at farm, as in 1242-3 it was held by Gilbert de Preston.⁵ The estates of Robert de Ferrers, Earl of Derby, forfeited in 1266, were granted to the king's son Edmund of Lancaster,⁶ of whom Laurence de Preston was holding one knight's fee in Quinton and Denton in 1297.⁷ Further reference to this tenure appears in 1428 when Winmer de Preston held the same fee, with Ditchford mill, formerly held by Thomas de Preston of the Earl of Ferrers.⁸ This portion of Denton may then have been absorbed into Quinton (q.v.).

The 10 virgates held of Ramsey by William de Whiston in the 12th century were still in the abbey's hands in 1271, when John de Cave held 9 virgates and Master William de Branfelde 1 virgate, as life tenants.⁹ In 1316 a moiety of Denton was held by John de Cave and Margery de Meuse,¹⁰ together with Whiston, of which manor (q.v.) it apparently formed a member. With Whiston it passed into the hands of the Earls of Gloucester. Hugh, Earl of Stafford, grandson of Margaret, daughter and heir of Hugh, Earl of Gloucester, at the time of his death in 1387 possessed half a knight's fee in Denton held by Sir Thomas Griffin,¹¹ and this fee, worth 100s. and held of the king as of the honor of Gloucester, remained with his descendants,¹² probably until the estates of Edward Stafford, Duke of Buckingham, were forfeit to the Crown in 1523. The mesne tenure, held by a Thomas Griffin in 1402¹³ and 1460,¹⁴ passed to John son of Nicholas Griffin who died in 1485 leaving his son Nicholas as heir to 10 messuages in Denton held of the Earl of Kent.¹⁵ On the death of Sir Thomas, son of Nicholas, in 1566, it was found that he had settled in tail male his property in Denton, except 4 messuages to be held by his brother Edward Griffin of Dingley for life.¹⁶ An agreement about these lands was made in the following year between Edward Griffin and Thomas Markham of Ollerton, Notts., and his wife Mary, daughter of Rice Griffin deceased, son and heir of Sir Thomas.¹⁷ Edward Griffin died in 1569 when his share in Denton was said to be worth 40s. and held of Sir Henry Compton.¹⁸

In 1284¹⁹ and 1316²⁰ a moiety of Denton was held by John de Hastings of the king in chief as part of the honor of Huntingdon. By inquisitions of 1325²¹ and 1348²² it was found that this family owned rents in Denton held as of Yardley Hastings, and a half fee in Denton, Brafield, and Houghton held by William la Zouche of Harringworth. The half fee was held by William la Zouche junior in 1376²³ and descended

with Little Houghton (q.v.). This moiety of Denton ultimately passed with other lands of the honor of Huntingdon²⁴ to the Comptons, Earls of Northampton.

Henry, Lord Spencer, with Richard Spencer his guardian was party to a recovery concerning property including this manor of Denton in 1639,²⁵ and James, Earl of Northampton, was dealing with the manor in 1647.²⁶ From this date it has descended with the manors of Yardley Hastings and Castle Ashby (q.v.).

A capital messuage here in which John Flamstead lived before his death in 1632 was settled on his daughter Frances the wife of William Andrews, who held it of Sir Hatton Farmer as of his hundred of Wymersley.²⁷ The Earl of Pomfret, a descendant of Hatton Farmer, owned half of Denton in the early 18th century, for which suit and service was paid to his court at Cotton End. A stream separated his share from that of the Earl of Northampton, whose tenants owed suit at Yardley Hastings.²⁸

The church of *ST. MARGARET CHURCH* stands on high ground in the middle of the village and consists of chancel, 18 ft. 2 in. by 15 ft. with vestry on the north side; nave, 40 ft. square; south porch, and west tower, 7 ft. by 6 ft., all these measurements being internal. The ground falls rapidly from south to north.

The building has been very much altered in modern times and little ancient work remains. The nave was rebuilt in its present form in 1827-8, and the chancel and tower repaired: the vestry, which is only 6 ft. wide and covers the chancel its full length, was probably erected then or shortly after.²⁹ There is a similar addition on the south side of the chancel with external doorway only, used for storage. A stone with the date 1629 over the east window of the chancel points to some alteration or repair at that period.³⁰ The building is generally of roughly coursed mingled limestone and local ironstone, with slated roofs. The nave has a modern plaster cove in place of a parapet, but a portion of the old parapet remains at each end on the south side and is continued on the east gable. Internally all the walls are plastered and the floors flagged.

The pointed east window of the chancel and those of the nave are modern, all quite plain and of three lights, with wooden frames, and uprights crossing in the head. Two small lancet windows, now in the north wall of the vestry, were originally in the chancel,³¹ and the south doorway, which has a pointed arch of two square orders on moulded imposts, may be also of 13th-century date, together with the lower portion of the tower, in which is a lancet window with hood-mould.

Bridges, writing about 1720, describes the church as consisting of chancel, body, and south aisle, with a north cross aisle, and small embattled tower,³² and it so

¹ *Cart.* iii, 49, 219.

² In 1200 William de Whiston was impleaded by Gerard de Denton for 4 virgates in Denton mortgaged to Henry de Whiston: *Curia Regis* R. i, 141, 197.

³ *Cal. Close*, 1227-31, p. 384.

⁴ *Bk. of Fees*, 495, 499.

⁵ *Ibid.* 933.

⁶ *Dict. Nat. Biog.*

⁷ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* iii, no. 423, p. 296.

⁸ *Feud. Aids*, iv, 42.

⁹ *Cart.* i, 57. ¹⁰ *Feud. Aids*, iv, 26.

¹¹ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 10 Ric. II, no. 38.

¹² *Ibid.* 16 Ric. II, no. 27; 18 Ric. II, no. 43; 22 Ric. II, no. 46; 4 Hen. IV, no. 41; 38-9 Hen. VI, no. 59.

¹³ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 4 Hen. IV, no. 41.

¹⁴ *Ibid.* 38-9 Hen. VI, no. 59.

¹⁵ *Cal. Inq. p.m. Hen. VII*, i, nos. 37, 664.

¹⁶ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), cxlv, 51.

¹⁷ *Ibid.* cliii, 61. Cf. Bridges, *Northants.* ii, 12.

¹⁸ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), cliii, 61.

¹⁹ *Feud. Aids*, iv, 6.

²⁰ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* vi, no. 612, pp. 388,

391. ²¹ *Ibid.* ix, no. 118, p. 123.

²² *Cal. Close*, 1347-77, p. 189.

²³ *Cal. Inq. p.m. Hen. VII*, i, no. 796,

p. 342; *ibid.* ii, no. 752.

²⁴ *Rec. R. Trin.* 15 Chas. I, ro. 114.

²⁵ Feet of F. Div. Co. Trin. 23 Chas. I.

²⁶ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), cccxc, 152.

²⁷ Bridges, i, 275, 291.

²⁸ It is not, however, shown on the plan attached to the faculty and may be later.

²⁹ A tablet in the church (see below) records the 'adornment' of the chancel some time before 1619. The tenor bell is dated 1629.

³⁰ The openings are 16 in. wide, with external chamfer, but no hood-moulds. The windows were on either side, near the west end.

³¹ *Hist. of Northants.* i, 355; the chancel was leaded and the cross aisle tiled.

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continued until 1827. The plan attached to the faculty of that year,¹ shows a nave of four bays and south aisle 10 ft. wide. A former north aisle of the same width had apparently long been taken down, except for the eastern bay, the so-called 'cross aisle'; the north arcade also remained standing though blocked. In the rebuilding both arcades² were removed and the north wall was rebuilt farther out, in line with the north wall of the then existing 'transept', the nave being placed under a single wide-spanned roof. At the west end the responds of the former arcades still remain: they are half-octagonal on plan and have moulded capitals of 14th-century date, and the chancel arch is of the same character and of two chamfered orders. The tower arch springs from moulded corbels of the same period; all of which implies a reconstruction in the 14th century of a 13th-

but have cast-iron frames of two traceried lights.⁴ The tower finishes with a battlemented parapet, pyramidal roof, and vane. The angle pinnacles are apparently of 18th-century date.

The font is of cylindrical type, 16 in. high, covered with a sunk geometrical pattern, and stands on a tall moulded base of later date. The bowl may be ancient, but it has no lead lining and is spoiled by paint.

The pulpit is modern. The organ is in the gallery.

On the south wall of the chancel is a black marble tablet within a stone border, put up in 1619 by David Owen, rector of Yardley Hastings, with a long Latin inscription recording the benefactions⁵ of William Andrew and setting forth a grant by the rector to Andrew and his heirs to be buried in the chancel.⁶

There are three bells in the tower, the first by R. Taylor and Sons, of Oxford, 1827; the second by James Keene of Woodstock, 1625; and the third dated 1629.⁷

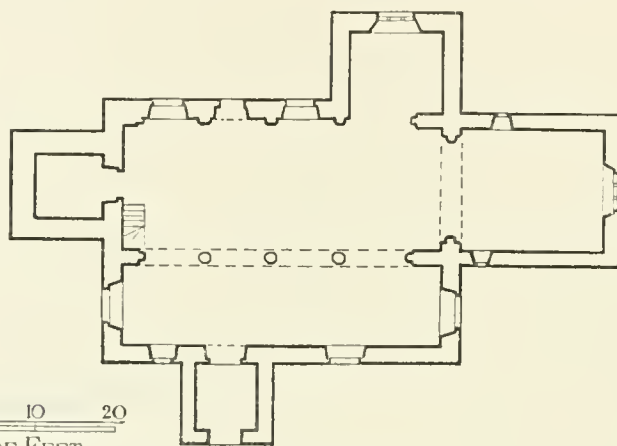
The plate consists of a cup of 1570, with the maker's mark AL linked, a cover paten without marks, but c. 1650, made to fit the cup, and a paten without date letter inscribed 'I.H., W.W., Churchwardens 1683'.⁸

The registers before 1812 are as follows: (i) all entries 1540-1653; (ii) 1653-97; (iii) baptisms and burials 1716-41, marriages 1716-38; (iv) baptisms and burials 1741-1812; (v) marriages 1754-1812.⁹

In the churchyard is a cross in memory of twelve men of the parish who fell in the war of 1914-18.

The church of Denton was a *ADVOWSON* chapelry, stated in 1535 to be annexed to Yardley Hastings,¹⁰ but by the 18th century, and probably earlier, it was a chapel to Yardley Hastings and Whiston, both in the gift of the Earl of Northampton, whose rectors performed duty here in alternate years and divided the tithes.¹¹ In the 19th century, farms of 140 acres and 64 acres belonged respectively to these two rectors.¹² When a separate benefice was made in 1892 Denton became a vicarage in the gift of the lord of the manor.¹³

Church Land. The endowment of this *CHARITY* charity consists of about 7 acres of land let in allotments, the rents of which amounting to £13 (approximately) yearly are paid to the churchwardens and applied towards church expenses.



PLAN OF DENTON OLD CHURCH
(from the plan attached to the faculty, 1827)

century structure, to which probably aisles were then first added.

The chancel is lighted solely from the east and has a flat plaster ceiling. The nave has three windows on each side, and one at each side of the tower at the west end. There are north and south doorways and the walls are well buttressed. There is a west gallery with good panelled front, on which are the royal arms of George IV. The flat plaster ceiling of the nave is coved.

The tower has small diagonal buttresses of two stages on the west side, but is without strings below the bell-chamber stage. Above the lancet window on the west side, already mentioned, is a clock dial and higher again on three sides a small pointed opening. On the south side there is a rather bigger pointed opening about mid height.³ All these openings are very plain, with square jambs, the heads of the smaller ones being of one stone. The bell-chamber windows resemble those of the nave,

¹ The faculty is dated April 20, 1827. In it the building is described as 'in a very decayed and dangerous state'. The building was re-opened for worship on September 25, 1828.

² The pillars were octagonal, with responds of the same character at each end.

³ A clock dial on the north side at this height may conceal a similar opening.

⁴ Probably put in in 1827, when the treble bell was recast.

⁵ These included a pension to six widows of Yardley Hastings, the gift of a clock to the chapel of Denton, and the adornment of its chancel.

⁶ Bridges, *Hist. of Northants.* i, 355, where the inscription is given. The tablet was then on the east wall of the chancel. David Owen was rector 1598-1623.

⁷ North, *Ch. Bells of Northants.* 247, where the inscriptions are given. In 1552 there were three bells and a sanctus bell.

⁸ Markham, *Ch. Plate of Northants.* 97.

⁹ The first two volumes were rebound in 1913. The first page of vol. i is torn, but the entries probably began in 1538. There is a gap 1697 to 1716.

¹⁰ *Valor Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), iv, 329.

¹¹ Bridges, i, 355; T. Bacon, *Liber Regis*, 835.

¹² Kelly, *Directories* 1854-85.

¹³ *Ibid.*

GRENDON

Grendon (xi cent.); Creden (xiii cent.); Gryndon (xiv cent.); Grendon (xvii cent.).

The parish and village of Grendon is seated on high ground commanding a view over a fine vale of pasture-land, $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles south-east from the Castle Ashby and Earls Barton Station. The soil is of a mixed character on a subsoil of limestone. The chief crops are cereals and there is much grassland used for grazing. The parish lies chiefly at a height of about 200 ft. Its area is 1,727 acres. The common lands were inclosed by an award of 1781.¹

The population in 1931 was 414.

The Hall, formerly the manor-house, is on the north side of the village, near Nether End, on the road to Wollaston. It is a 17th-century two-story house greatly altered in the 18th century, when the principal or east front, which has slightly projecting end wings, was rebuilt in Corby and Ketton stone. It is a simple but very pleasing design, with square-headed windows, drafted quoins, wooden modillion cornice, and slated hipped roofs. The windows have architraves and heavily barred sashes painted white, and the square-headed doorway has a circular hood supported on brackets. The 18th-century facing is continued along the shorter south front, but the longer north front remains substantially unaltered² and retains its mullioned windows. There is a partly panelled open staircase and two of the bedrooms contain tapestry. To the north-east of the house are the stables and dovecote, the latter a rectangular limestone structure with gables east and west, and square wooden cupola, apparently of 17th-century date.³

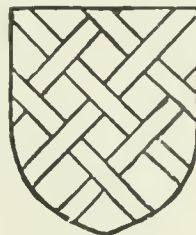
At Nether End the socket-stone of an ancient cross lies by the roadside, and there is a second in a field adjoining.⁴

In 1806, the Countess Judith held in *MANOR GRENDON* 3 hides and 1 virgate, including 3 mills, as a member of Yardley Hastings. She also held a virgate of socland pertaining to Castle Ashby which descended with that fee (q.v.).⁵ From the 12th century, when 7 hides less 1 virgate in Yardley and Grendon were part of the fee of King David,⁶ this holding continued under the honor of Huntingdon. According to a later pleading, John, Earl of Huntingdon, gave the manor of Grendon to Baldwin de Paunton.⁷ James de Paunton, who held the manor in 1255,⁸ was accused of exacting excessive services from his tenants in 1260.⁹ Half a knight's fee was held by his

son Philip of John de Hastings in 1284.¹⁰ Maud daughter of Philip married John de Harrington of Harrington, Lincs., and in 1287 Philip granted them

6s. rent from Grendon with the remainder of the manor after the death of Isabel widow of James de Paunton.¹¹ John de Harrington was holding this fee in 1313¹² and in 1316 was named lord of Grendon and Cotes.¹³ His son Richard died before his father in 1325 seised of a little manor (*manereturum*) in Grendon held of John de Hastings by service of 6d. yearly. This included a messuage with a ditch and garden, 80 acres of arable in demesne, and a mill, and passed to his son John, aged 18.¹⁴ In 1329 this John de Harrington, later styled 'chivaler', proved his claim to view of frankpledge in the manor by descent from Baldwin de Paunton.¹⁵ He died in 1376 having been seised jointly with Elizabeth his first wife and leaving as heirs his daughters Amy wife of John Carnell, and Isabel wife of Hugh Fairfax.¹⁶ He had a third daughter Alice, aged one, of whose inheritance John Carnell had custody.¹⁷ She was probably daughter of Isabel his second wife¹⁸ and does not appear to have had any share of Grendon. The property of her two sisters became two separate manors in the 15th century.

The Carnell inheritance may have passed to William son of Amy Carnell,¹⁹ but it appears to have been held for a period by Sir Thomas Brownflete, who in 1403 received a grant of free warren in his demesne lands in Grendon.²⁰ Some time early in that century it was held by John Mortimer, esq., on whose behalf there was a commission of inquiry about housebreaking and assault at Grendon in 1413.²¹ Agnes daughter of John Mortimer by his first wife married Baldwin Willoughby after 1458,²² and her son John inherited the manor of Grendon.²³ At the end of the century Baldwin and John Willoughby had to defend their rights in Grendon against William and John Holdenby, the husbands of Eleanor and Joan the half-sisters of Agnes Willoughby.²⁴ These were finally secured to John Willoughby and his son Richard in 1514.²⁵ The latter's son Edward died in 1558,²⁶ and his son Robert died seised of it in 1615, leaving as heir his brother Richard aged 60.²⁷ On the death of Richard in 1621 it passed to his son Philip,



HARRINGTON. Sable
fretty argent.

¹ Recov. R. East. 21 Geo. III, ro. 169.

² The 18th-century wooden cornice, however, is continued its full length.

³ *Northants. N. & Q.* N.S. vi, 119, where it is figured. It measures externally 26 ft. 4 in. by 18 ft. and the height to the eaves is about 16 ft. The roof timbers are original. There are about 560 nesting places.

⁴ Markham, *Stone Crosses of Northants.* (1901), 57: both stones are rude and of no architectural importance.

⁵ *V.C.H. Northants.* i, 351b.

⁶ *Ibid.* 353 b.

⁷ *Plac. de Quo Warr.* (Rec. Com.), 559; Bridges, i, 356. For this family see Farrer, *Honors and Knights' Fees*, ii, 314.

⁸ Assize R. 619, m. 32.

⁹ *Ibid.* 616, m. 6 d.

¹⁰ *Feud. Aids*, iv, 6.

¹¹ Feet of F. case 175, file 55, no. 238. Isabel de Paunton had view of frankpledge in Grendon: *Hund. R.* (Rec. Com.), ii, 8.

¹² *Cal. Inq. p.m.* v, no. 412, p. 235.

¹³ *Feud. Aids*, iv, 26: *Knights of Edward I* (Harl. Soc. lxxxii, 1929), p. 188.

¹⁴ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* Edw. II, file 90, no. 10.

¹⁵ *Plac. de Quo Warr.* (Rec. Com.), 559. The prior of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem in England had view of frankpledge from his own tenants in Grendon and elsewhere (*ibid.* 532). Land had been given to the Hospitallers by William son of Reynold de Grendon: *Cat. Anct. D.* A. 8966.

¹⁶ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 51 Edw. III, no. 18b; *Cal. Fine*, viii, 399, 402.

¹⁷ *Ibid.* ix, 26.

¹⁸ She had dower in his lands in Lincs.

and Notts.: *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 51 Edw. III, no. 18 a.

¹⁹ G. Wrottesley, *Pedigrees from the Plea Rolls*, 339. Maud daughter of a William de la Carnaill married Robert de Holdenby: *Cal. Inq. p.m.* xi, no. 287.

²⁰ *Cal. Chart.* v, 421.

²¹ *Cal. Pat.* 1413-16, p. 115.

²² *V.C.H. Bucks.* iv, 469.

²³ Early *Chan. Proc. bdle.* 179, no. 5.

²⁴ *Ibid.* bdles. 97, no. 80; 179, no. 5. Eleanor and Joan were daughters of John Mortimer by Anne daughter of George Longueville.

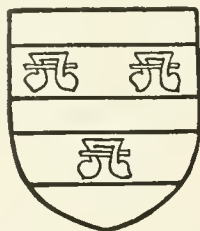
²⁵ Feet of F. Div. Co. Hil. 5 Hen. VIII.

²⁶ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), cxviii, 9. There is no inquisition for Northants.

²⁷ W. C. Metcalfe, *Plantation of Northants.* 157; *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), ccclxviii, 147.

A HISTORY OF NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

aged 19,¹ who with his wife Mary in 1641 sold the manor, with a water-mill called 'keep mill' and a wind-mill, to Henry Spencer, Earl of Northampton.² According to later bills against Mary Willoughby and her sons³ this transaction was merely an arrangement whereby the estates of Philip might escape his creditors and sequestration by Parliament, but the subsequent history of the manor suggests an actual sale, as certainly from the early 18th century it has been held by the Earls of Northampton.⁴



WILLOUGHBY. Or two bars gules with three water-bougets argent on the bars.



FAIRFAX. Argent three gimmel bars gules with a lion sable over all.

The part of Grendon which came to Isabel wife of Hugh Fairfax in 1376 was held by her descendants until the 17th century. William Fairfax, son of William the great-grandson of Isabel Fairfax,⁵ died in 1498 seised of the manor of Grendon, worth 20 marks, which in 1491 he had settled on himself and Agnes his wife and their heirs. It was held of the Earl of Kent as of his manor of Yardley Hastings by fealty and 6d. yearly rent.⁶ From William son of William and Agnes Fairfax it passed to his daughter Margaret the wife of Miles Worsley, who died in 1516 leaving a son John, aged 7.⁷ Margaret then married Robert Brudenell of Deeping-Gate.⁸ Her son John Worsley married Mary daughter of Richard Bosome of Baroughby, Lincs., and was succeeded in 1545⁹ by his son Francis who died without issue.¹⁰ His heir was his brother Richard¹¹ who died in 1607 seised of the manor jointly with his wife Mary daughter of John Harrington.¹² On the death of their son John in 1626 leaving a son Richard, aged 1, part of the manor was still held by Mary Harrington as dower and part had been settled on John's wife Abigail.¹³ From this date its history is obscure, but it appears to have passed to Henry Clifton and his wife Anne and Gilbert Wigmore and his wife Sabina, who made settlements concerning it in 1648,¹⁴ 1653,¹⁵ and 1655.¹⁶ William Wigmore had an interest in it in 1719,¹⁷ at about which time it was said to belong to the Earl of Northampton,¹⁸ whose descendant the present Marquess is lord of the manor to-day.

In 1492 Roger Salisbury, who succeeded John Mortimer at Horton (q.v.), died seised of the manor of *OVER GRENDON*, held of William Fairfax by fealty,¹⁹ and was succeeded by his son William Salis-

bury, who in 1499 left a daughter Mary aged 15.²⁰ She married Lord Parre of Horton²¹ and after his death gave the manor of Grendon to Sir Thomas Tresham.²² He, who had been created Grand Prior of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem by Queen Mary, was succeeded in 1559 by his grandson Thomas,²³ who conveyed his right in the manor to Lewis, Lord Mordaunt and others in 1587.²⁴ It was probably acquired later by the Earl of Northampton.

The church of *ST. MARY THE CHURCH VIRGIN* consists of chancel, 41 ft. by 18 ft. 6 in.; clerestoried nave of four bays, 56 ft. 3 in. by 14 ft.; north aisle, 12 ft. 3 in. wide; south aisle, 13 ft. 3 ins. wide; south porch, and west tower, 14 ft. by 13 ft., all these measurements being internal. The width across nave and aisles is 44 ft. 6 in.

The tower is faced with alternate courses of finely dressed limestone and ironstone, but elsewhere the walling is of limestone rubble with ironstone dressings. There are battlemented parapets to the nave and south aisle and a straight parapet to the north aisle. The chancel and nave roofs are covered with slates²⁵ and the porch with red tiles: all the roofs are modern. Except in the tower the walls are plastered internally.

There was a partial restoration of the building in 1848, when the chancel was re-roofed, and in 1899 the church was re-seated, the north wall of the north aisle underpinned and in part rebuilt, the old material being re-used, and other work of repair carried out.

The two western pillars and arches of the nave arcades are all that remains of an aisled church of 12th-century date, the nave of which was of three bays. The arches are semicircular and of a single square order, springing from cylindrical pillars with scalloped capitals and circular chamfered bases on square chamfered plinths, and at the west end from scalloped imposts. The capitals vary in design, and in the imposts and the second pillar from the west on the north side the scalloping is plain; in the other three capitals it is enriched, in two cases with small nail-heads, and nail-head ornament also occurs in the hood-moulds of the arches of the south arcade.²⁶ The circular abacus of the south-west pillar has an indented moulding round its upper member.

Early in the 13th century the church seems to have been reconstructed at its east end and the aisles widened. The walling of the present south aisle including the south doorway, and of the western portion of the north aisle, is substantially of this date, together with the porch, and a window and doorway on the north side; but the two eastern bays of the nave arcades and the chancel were rebuilt c. 1360-80, and in the 15th century the tower and clerestory were erected, and several new windows inserted.

The 13th-century south doorway has a round arch of two orders with hood-mould. The outer order is moulded, on nook-shafts which have moulded capitals

¹ Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), ccclxxxvi, 99.

² Feet of F. Northants. Trin. 17 Chas. I.

³ Chan. Proc. (Ser. 2), bdle. 439, no. 4; bdle. 466, no. 44.

⁴ Bridges, i, 357.

⁵ Wrottesley, op. cit. 339.

⁶ Cal. Inq. p.m. Hen. VII, ii, no. 78.

⁷ Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), xxx, 49 (2).

⁸ Early Chan. Proc. bdle. 468, no. 1; W. C. Metcalfe, op. cit. 56, 170, 205.

⁹ Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), lxxii, 54. The manor was held of Peter Compton, esq.

¹⁰ W. C. Metcalfe, op. cit. 56, 205.

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), ccclxv, 123; W. C. Metcalfe, op. cit. 26, 205.

¹³ Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), cccxxx, 175.

¹⁴ Feet of F. Northants. Mich. 24 Chas. I.

¹⁵ Ibid. Div. Co. East. 1653. The other property named here is that with which John Worsley was dealing in 1618: ibid. Hil. 15 Jas. I.

¹⁶ Ibid. Northants. East. 1655.

¹⁷ Ibid. East. 5 Geo. I.

¹⁸ Bridges, op. cit. i, 357.

¹⁹ Cal. Inq. p.m. Hen. VII, i, no. 796. He had also 200 acres in Grendon held by the Earl of Kent.

²⁰ Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), lxxviii, 38.

²¹ G.E.C. Peerage (1st ed.), vi, 191.

²² Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), ccxiv, 144.

²³ Ibid.

²⁴ Feet of F. Northants. Hil. 29 Eliz.

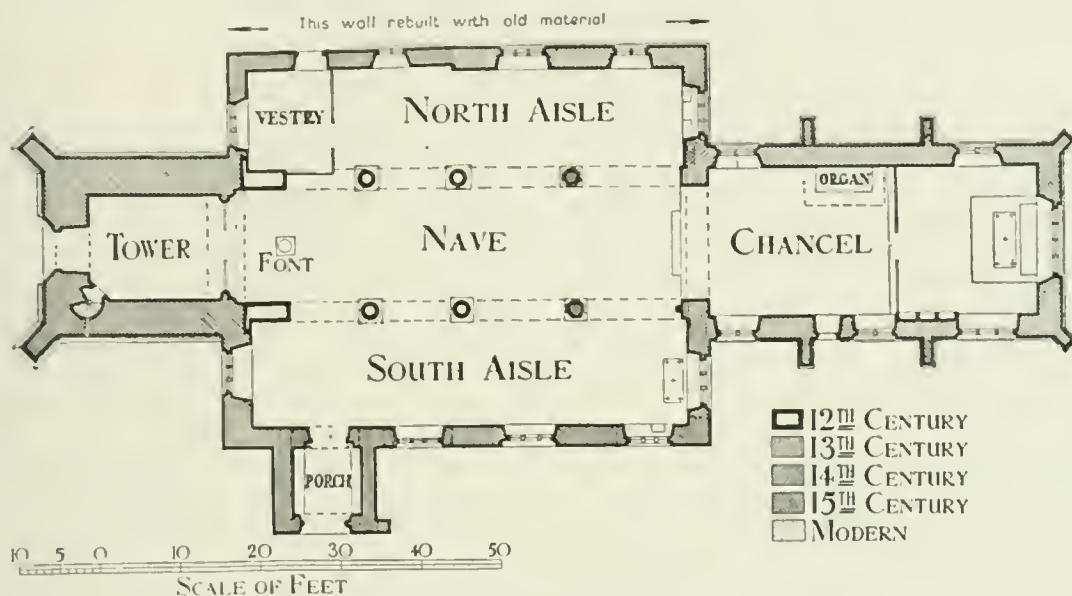
²⁵ In Bridges' time, c. 1720, the chancel was leaded.

²⁶ The arches of the north arcade are without hood-moulds.

and bases, but the inner order is of square section on moulded impost. One of the capitals and both the bases are badly mutilated, and the surface ornament on the inner order of the arch is very much weathered.¹ The north doorway is pointed and of two orders on moulded imposts, the outer order square and the other with a hollow chamfer. The contemporary window adjoining it consists of two plain chamfered lancet lights, the dripstone of which follows the line of the openings. Both aisles are without buttresses. The south aisle has a string-course at sill level along its east and south walls as far as the porch and retains a beautiful 13th-century trefoil-headed piscina with plain circular bowl and short jamb-shafts with moulded capitals and

only, which alone is lengthened.⁴ No piscina remains in the chancel, but there are good 15th-century triple sedilia, with crocketed ogee cinquefoil arches and plain jambs and dividing pieces; the seats are level. Below the north-east window is a chamfered arched recess, in which is a small plain altar-tomb.⁵ The sanctuary was paved with marble in 1914, but the rest of the floor is flagged. The pointed chancel arch is of two chamfered orders, without hood-mould, the inner order on moulded corbels supported by grotesque faces. There is no screen.

The 14th-century pointed arches forming the two eastern bays of the nave arcades are of two chamfered orders, springing at the west from the 12th-century



PLAN OF GRENDON CHURCH

bases. The porch, though much restored, preserves its 13th-century pointed outer arch of two chamfered orders, the inner order on half-round responds with moulded capitals.²

The chancel is of three bays, with diagonal angle buttresses, chamfered plinth, and string at sill level. The lateral buttresses are modern. The 15th-century four-centred moulded east window is of four cinquefoil lights with traceried head and hood-mould, and on either side of it, about mid-height, is a small carved head. In the south wall are three square-headed windows, all with double-chamfered jambs, the easternmost of three and the others of two trefoiled lights. There is a priest's doorway of two continuous orders in the middle bay. The two windows in the north wall, one at each end, are also square-headed and of two trefoiled lights, but the middle bay is blank. The westernmost window on each side is lengthened,³ its lower portion forming a low-side window, but the treatment differs. On the south side there is a transom to both lights, but on the north to the western light

pillars, and are wider and loftier than the older arches.⁶ The later octagonal pillars, one on each side, have moulded capitals and bases,⁷ and on the north side the arch rests at the east end on a restored moulded corbel. On the south side there is a half-octagonal respond which probably belonged to a former 13th-century arcade. In the south arcade the arches have hood-moulds on both sides, but on the north to the nave only.

There are three plain square-headed clerestory windows of two uncusped lights on each side; they are without hood-moulds and are widely splayed inside.

The 15th-century windows of the aisles, with one exception,⁸ are of three lights, either trefoiled or cinquefoil, and with four-centred and square heads. The east window of the north aisle is widely splayed inside, and its sill stepped to form a reredos for the aisle altar.

The tower is of four stages, with moulded plinth and diagonal buttresses its full height at the angles. The pointed west doorway has continuous-moulded

¹ It can be distinguished clearly on only six of the eleven vousoirs. It does not occur on the soffit.

² The bases, if any, are gone.

³ The sills of the easternmost windows are 5 ft. above the top of the plinth, those of the two westernmost windows about 3 ft. 9 in.

⁴ Internally there is a sill for the lower west portion only. Both low-side windows are glazed and are equally splayed inside. That on the north retains its original iron grille: *Assoc. Arch. Soc. Rep.* xxix, 416.

⁵ The recess is 5 ft. 6 in. wide and 2 ft. deep.

⁶ The span of the 12th-century arches is about 10 ft., that of the 14th-century arches about 13 ft. 6 in.

⁷ The bases stand on square plinths of the same dimensions as those of the earlier pillars.

⁸ The easternmost window in the north wall of the north aisle is of two lights.

A HISTORY OF NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

jamb and head within a square frame with traceried spandrels, and immediately above it is a large pointed transomed window of three cinquefoiled lights with elaborate rectilinear tracery and hood-mould. The lower stages are blank on the north and south, but the third stage has a square traceried opening on the north and west. The upper, or bell-chamber stage is very lofty, and the hood-mould of the windows is taken round the tower as a string. The pointed windows are of two cinquefoiled lights with quatrefoil in the head and cusped transom at half-height. There is a vice in the south-west angle. The tower terminates with a battlemented parapet, gargoyles, and tall angle pinnacles.¹ The lofty pointed tower arch is of two chamfered orders towards the nave, the outer order continuous and the inner on half-octagonal responds with battlemented and moulded capitals and moulded bases.²

The font is modern, but an 18th-century pillar font with small fluted bowl has been converted into a receptacle for alms. The pulpit and other fittings are modern.

In the floor at the east end of the north aisle is a blue slab with small brass inscription to John Mortimer (1446),³ and on another slab at the east end of the nave are the figure brasses of a lady and her two husbands, with the indents of three shields above and of an inscription below, apparently of late-15th-century date.⁴

On the north wall of the chancel is a monument to Thomas Willoughby (d. 1682).

There is a ring of five bells; the first and fourth are by Hugh Watts of Leicester 1618, the second by the same founder but undated, the third a 16th-century bell inscribed 'Sit nomen Dominum Benedictum', and the tenor by Thomas Eayre of Kettering 1761.⁵

The silver plate consists of a straight-sided cup and cover paten of 1655. There are also a pewter flagon and two pewter plates.⁶

The registers before 1812 are as follows: (i) baptisms 1559-1672, marriages and burials 1559-1695; (ii) baptisms 1695-1812, marriages 1695-1744, burials 1695-1707, 1733-1812; (iii) marriages 1754-6; (iv) marriages 1776-1812.

HARDINGSTONE

Hardingstone (xi cent. onwards); Hardingstorp (xi-xiii cent.); Hardingesthorn (xii-xv cent.); Hardingestone, Ardingesthorn (xiii cent.); Harthingistorn, Hardynstone (xiv cent.); Hardenston (xvii cent.).

Hardingstone is a parish and head of a rural district.¹⁴ Cotton End and Far Cotton (Cotes xii-xiv cent.; Chotes xii-xiii cent.; Cotom xiv cent.), formerly hamlets, were incorporated in 1868 with the borough

In the churchyard is a memorial cross to six men of the parish who fell in the war of 1914-18.

The earliest known presentation *ADVOWSON* to the church of Grendon was made by John, Earl of Huntingdon, in 1231 after a dispute about the right of patronage with the Abbot of Jedburgh.⁷ In the subsequent division of the honor this right passed to Isabel de Bruce, who presented in 1249 with the assent of Henry de Hastings.⁸ It was held by her heir Robert de Bruce in 1290⁹ and forfeited to the Crown before the vacancy in 1316.¹⁰ Edward III granted this advowson with others in 1342 to the hall which he had founded in the University of Cambridge,¹¹ and it passed with the rectory to the new foundation of Trinity College in 1546.¹² This college still presented in the 19th century, but in 1926 transferred the advowson to the Bishop of Peterborough.¹³

CHARITIES Poor's Land and Parish Clerk's Land. In lieu of a piece of land, understood to have been given to the poor of this parish by the Rev. R. Shelborne in about 1665, an allotment of 8 a. 1 r. was awarded under an Inclosure Act and another allotment of 1 a. 2 r. 20 p. adjoining the former was awarded at the same time to the parish clerk. The lands are now let and the rent of the Poor's Land amounting to £10 yearly is distributed to the poor by two trustees appointed by the parish council and the rent of the Parish Clerk's Land is received by the churchwardens and paid to the parish clerk.

Richard Pipes Coles by his will proved 23 August 1909 gave the sum of £200 to the vicar and churchwardens, the income to be applied towards the relief of the poor of the parish. The endowment is now represented by £178 3s. 4d. London County 3½% Consolidated Stock held by the Official Trustees, and the yearly dividends amount to £6 4s. 8d.

The Charles Markham Memorial. Under a declaration of trust dated 18 February 1928, Major Anderson gave £125, the income to be applied by the vicar and churchwardens as the trustees, for the benefit of the poor of the parish. The endowment is now represented by £162 15s. 11d. 3½% Conversion Stock standing in the name of the Official Trustees and the dividends amount to £5 13s. 10d.

of Northampton for parliamentary purposes and constituted the civil parish of Far Cotton, in Delapré Ward, under the Local Government Act of 1894; in 1900 the greater part was added to the municipal borough of Northampton and the rest annexed to Hardingstone.¹⁵ Part of the ecclesiastical parish was assigned to Far Cotton in 1875.¹⁶

The area of the civil parish of Hardingstone is 2,581

¹ The pinnacles are modern, the old ones having been removed about 1848: Whellan, *Northants.* (1874), 261.

² On the west side the arch is of three chamfered orders, the two outer ones dying into the wall.

³ The plate is 22 in. by 3 in. The inscription reads: 'Hic jacet Johes Mortimer armig. qui obiit xviii^o die mens. Aprilis A^o Dni. mccccxlvii et Agnes ux. eius quo^r. aiābs. p'piciet' De^s Amē.'

⁴ Hudson, *Brasses of Northants.* (1853), where the brass is figured. 'The male figures are in plain plate armour; each is

bareheaded with clubbed hair, and hands covered with gauntlets raised in prayer. One figure rests on a lion couchant, the other on a dog. Constant attrition has nearly effaced every line upon the figure of the woman.' The figures are 2 ft. 11 in. high.

⁵ North, *Ch. Bells of Northants.* 281, where the inscriptions are given. The first and second are alphabet bells. In 1552 there were four bells and a sanctus bell.

⁶ Markham, *Ch. Plate of Northants.* 137.

⁷ *Rot. Hug. de Welles* (Cant. and York Soc.), ii, 168, 253. Possibly King David had made a grant of the church to Jedburgh.

⁸ Farrer, op. cit. ii, 9; *Rot. Rob. Grosseteste* (Cant. and York Soc.), 240.

⁹ Bridges, i, 357.

¹⁰ *Cal. Pat.* 1313-7, p. 387.

¹¹ *Ibid.* 1340-3, p. 495.

¹² *L. and P. Hen. VIII.* xxi (2), g. 648 (51).

¹³ *Ex inf.* Mr. H. Savory.

¹⁴ Union formed 1835 (*Lond. Gaz.*).

¹⁵ Kelly, *Dir.* (1931). In 1618 St. James's End, Cotton End, and West Cotton were included in the liberties of Northampton, but not for long: *V.C.H. Northants.* iii, 31.

¹⁶ *Lond. Gaz.* 29 Oct. 1875, p. 5087.

acres, land and water, that of Far Cotton 382 acres, the respective populations in 1931 being 704 and 7,268. The former shows a decline from 1921, the latter 2,000 increase. The soil is clay and loam, the subsoil stone and gravel, the crops wheat, barley, and grass.

The pleasant village of Hardingstone, 1½ miles south-south-east of Northampton, stands about 275 ft. above the ordnance datum and commands a fine view of Northampton and the Nene Valley. A few 17th-century ironstone thatched houses remain in the village, but in nearly all cases the windows have been altered and the mullions removed; one of these houses, on the north side of the main street, has a good four-centred moulded doorway. The lofty Hunsborough Hill was a late Celtic settlement; Roman coins and pottery have been found.¹ The parish became almost entirely church land in the 12th century and maintained two religious houses on its own soil, the Cluniac abbey of Delapré and the leper hospital of St. Leonard. A benedictine dwelt in the so-called Hermitage² near the south bridge,³ for the repair of which he no doubt collected alms.

Of the two mills belonging to the royal manor at the time of the Conquest one, then known as Canchesmelne, was apparently for a while in the hands of Grimbold, who gave its tithes to the nuns of Delapré before 1135.⁴ The mill itself may have come to the nuns when Earl Simon II gave them all that Hugh Grimbold held in Hardingstone,⁵ but it was in the hands of the Crown from 1196 to 1199, when it was given to King David.⁶ It was eventually given or restored to the abbey, as the mill of Conches, Kong, Congenes, or Quengions⁷ was known in 1591 as 'Quyn Johns alias Quingeons mills alias Nunne mills'.⁸ Rush mills and Marvell's mill rose in the 12th century and were given to St. Andrew's. A postern in the town wall and a causeway 7 ft. wide led to the latter.⁹ Two corn-mills, called Cotton or the Abbot's, and from later owners Walgier's and Samwell's, belonged to St. James's Abbey, Northampton; and there were medieval fulling-mills and for a while a gig mill for dressing cloth; it was pulled down under a statute of Edward VI. In 1591 the Quingeons or Nun mills were composed of three mills under one roof and of a wheat mill standing by itself, and a centenarian witnessed that the gig mill had stood between them and the south bridge. Thomas Sandbrook had lately built a windmill which took away custom from the Queen's mills and also dug a ditch about St. Thomas's house (a hospital on the South bridge) and diverted water from

the royal mills.¹⁰ Marvell's mill saw an unsuccessful pioneer venture in cotton in the 18th century;¹¹ Rush mill became a paper mill and was making paper for Government stamps in 1874.¹²

Near the mills a cast-iron bridge was made over the Nene in 1842.

The Eleanor Cross stands on the east side of the London road on the brow of the hill, about a mile from Northampton. It is one of the three remaining crosses erected to mark the resting-places of the body of Edward I's first wife, Eleanor of Castile, on its way from Harby in Nottinghamshire, where she died on 28 November 1290, to Westminster, and although it has been more than once restored, much of the original work remains. With the other 'Eleanor Crosses' it was erected about 1292¹³ and is a very beautiful example of late-13th-century architecture.

The cross stands on modern basement steps, octagonal on plan, and is built of stone in three diminishing stages,¹⁴ the character of the original termination being unknown.¹⁵ In 1900 the custody of the monument was handed over to the Northamptonshire County Council.¹⁶ The first recorded restoration was in 1713, when the Justices of the county, 'seeing its dilapidated condition', made an order for its repair.¹⁷ A cross 3 ft. high was erected on the summit, four sun-dials with mottoes¹⁸ were placed on the third stage facing the cardinal points, and on the west side of the bottom stage was placed a white marble tablet surmounted by the royal arms, with a long Latin inscription.¹⁹ The steps were renewed in 1762 and other repairs made,²⁰ but it was not until 1840 that any extensive work of restoration was carried out. This was done under the direction of Edward Blore, who removed the cross from its summit and put the present broken shaft in its place. The dials, royal arms, and inscription tablet were likewise removed, and the structure itself somewhat drastically renovated, one of the gables being entirely rebuilt.²¹ In 1884²² the foundations were made secure and the steps renewed, their number being increased from seven to nine.²³

The lowest stage of the cross is octagonal, with traceried sides, buttresses at the angles, and a sculptured cornice with cresting. The panelling on each side is in the form of a pointed arch, divided into two 'lights', with traceried head under a crocketed triangular canopy with foliated finial. In the head of each 'light' is a shield suspended from a knot of foliage,

¹ *V.C.H. Northants.* i, 217-19. For Saxon remains see *ibid.* 253-4.

² *Ibid.* iii, 61.

³ *Add. Chart.* 47056.

⁴ Dugdale, *Mon. Angl.* v, 192.

⁵ *Cal. Chart.* 1327-41, p. 86.

⁶ *Pipe R. & Ric. I* (Pipe R. Soc.), 34; *1 Yohn*, 9. On the deprivation of David King John gave the mill to Reynold de Lyons: *Rot. Litt. Claus.* (Rec. Com.), i, 264.

⁷ *V.C.H. Northants.* iii, 29.

⁸ *Exch. Dep.* 33 Eliz. no. 20. The derivation of the later name from the mills having been 'part of the dower of Queen Joan of Navarre' (*Place-Names of Northants.* 148) is an unconvincing piece of folk etymology unsupported by evidence.

⁹ *V.C.H. Northants.* iii, 29.

¹⁰ *Exch. Dep.* East. 33 Eliz. no. 20; *Mich.* 37 & 38 Eliz. no. 40, the former rich in archaic technical terms.

¹¹ *V.C.H. Northants.* loc. cit.

¹² Whellan, *Gaz.* 266.

¹³ *V.C.H. Herts.* iii, 443, says Waltham Cross was begun in 1291 and finished before Christmas 1292. *The Inventory of Hist. Monks.* *Herts.* 78, says Waltham Cross was erected c. 1294.

¹⁴ The first stage is about 14 ft. in height, the second 12 ft.

¹⁵ The cross was apparently already called 'Headless' in 1460, when the battle of Northampton was fought in this parish: *Northants. N. & Q.* ii, 70; iv, 218.

¹⁶ C. A. Markham, *Stone Crosses of Northants.* 14. Use has been made, by permission, of Major Markham's account of the cross in the following description.

¹⁷ The cost was not to exceed £30.

¹⁸ The mottoes, which are given in Bridges, *Hist. of Northants.* i, 359, were omitted when the dials were repaired in 1762.

¹⁹ Given in Bridges, *op. cit.* i, 358. It recorded the restoration of the cross by the Justices 'in that most auspicious year 1713 in which Anne, the glory of her

mighty Britain . . . restored peace to Europe after she had given it freedom'.

²⁰ A second tablet, on the south side, removed in 1840, recorded this.

²¹ *Assoc. Arch. Soc. Rep.* vii, 119: a paper by Edmund Law, architect, 1862, illustrated by five plates showing the extent of the new work. With Blore were associated George Baker and his sister as 'joint superintendents'.

²² The 1884 restoration was under the direction of Edmund Law, who (except for the steps) found the structure in 'fair repair'.

²³ In 1894 the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings reported that few repairs were needed: the Report is in the Local Collection at the Public Library, Northampton. In 1902 the County Council had the cross carefully examined and measured drawings of it made by W. A. Forsyth: see *Proc. Soc. Antiq.* (Ser. 2), xix, 69-74.

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bearing the arms of England, Ponthieu, or Castile quartering Leon.¹ Each alternate side is further ornamented near the middle of the panel with an open book supported on a lectern.

The second stage, which appears as an octagon, is formed by a solid square pillar, in front of each side of which is a statue of the Queen under an elaborate gabled and vaulted canopy supported by slender shafts, facing the cardinal points; the statues, which are 6 ft. 8 in. high and in different postures, are said to be original.² The third stage, which rises from behind the canopies, is square on plan, each side with a pointed traceried panel of four 'lights', surmounted by a crocketed gable with foliated finial. The present termination, as already stated, is modern and reproduces no ancient feature.

The present Delapré Abbey, standing in a fine park, has undergone so many alterations that it is not possible to give a connected history of its development, but it retains quite a considerable amount of ancient work. It apparently incorporates no actual portions of the old abbey, but in one of its internal walls are two good doorways dating from about 1550. These were originally external doorways, but they now open into a passage leading from the hall to the kitchen. The opposite wall of the passage, of somewhat later date, has at each end a curious small recess, some 4 ft. off the floor. These were evidently intended to hold lamps to light the passages. The western or entrance front is of good Jacobean work and was lighted by mullioned windows, some now replaced by sashes. This front followed the customary E plan, with a projecting wing at each end and a porch in the middle. The old views, before the modern additions, show a very charming, quiet house. Its northern gable has a neighbour of much the same date, which is the end of a long range of rooms of which the northern wall, against the stable-yard, is of plain Jacobean work, while the southern wall is that in which the two mid-16th-century doors occur, near to them being an original circular stone staircase.

The Jacobean work may probably be attributed to Zouch Tate, who was in possession from 1617 to 1650, and, according to Walker's *Sufferings of the Clergy*, 'built on the site of the nunnery and part of the church; turned other parts to profane use, particularly the chancel, to a dairy, buttery and such other offices'. But it must be said that no actual evidences of his profanity are now identifiable. Many of the rooms still retain wood panelling of his time, and in the servants' quarters is a staircase of the same period. In the year 1764 the property passed into possession of the Bouveries, and to them may be attributed the handsome south front with its long rows of sash windows, lighting rooms with panelling of the period. Later years brought more changes, among them being the enlargement, perhaps between 1830 and 1840, of the library by lengthening the original south wing westwards. Other rooms were contrived within the main block of the building, and

although they make its history puzzling they helped to produce a very commodious and imposing home.

The stables are a simple but striking building of much the same period as the south front. The gardens are the particular delight of the present owner, Miss Bouverie. In the wall on the south front is a handsome old doorway treated in the fine manner usually associated with Inigo Jones.

The fields were inclosed 1765-6.³

Among the lands of ancient demesne *MANORS* held by the Confessor and retained by William I was *HARDINGSTONE*, in 'Coltrewestan' hundred. There were 5 hides besides the inland. William Peverel and Gunfrid de Cioches held 2 hides and 60 acres of meadow, by the king's gift 'as they say'. Another 2 hides, which had been held by Waltheof formed a manor for the Countess Judith in 1086.⁴

Of the fee of Chokes here no more seems to be heard; but under-tenants of the honor of Chokes elsewhere appear in Cotton,⁵ where tenements were also held of the honor of Peverel in the 14th century.⁶

Most of the royal demesne was soon alienated, 7 hides being in the possession of King David in 1124.⁷ The overlordship of all the manors in the parish descended from David with the honor of Huntingdon in the Hastings pourparty until 1542 when they were made members of the new honor of Grafton.⁸

King David's stepson Earl Simon I before 1135 gave all his demesne here to St Andrew's Priory, Northampton, which he founded, with 3 carucates of land, 3 doles of meadow, a holme, the mill called Cotesmeln, the new mill 'Risemiln' (now Rush mills), the church and whole tithe.⁹ Other gifts of land in Hardingstone Cotton were made by various donors.¹⁰

The priory held 4 carucates in 1275 in the fields of Northampton,¹¹ and continued in possession of manor, rectory, and advowson until its surrender in 1538.¹²

The crown, although alienating the rectory in 1590, retained manor and advowson, making various leases,¹³ including a life grant to the Princess Elizabeth in 1551.¹⁴ Bridges, about 1720, said that the 5 hides held by the crown in 1086 were still held by tenants in ancient demesne who paid a rent of £52 per annum to the Lord Chief Justice Raynsford's heirs, grantees of the crown, 'and are so far lords of Hardingstone as to fish and hunt within the parish'. They were also exempted from payment of toll in the hundred.¹⁵

In 1275 the Earl of Cornwall had a prison at Cotton and took toll of 50 herring from each cartload, and one each of other fish; while the bailiff of the Hastings in Cotton took the same toll of herring, two of other fish, and from a sumpter horse one fish or from a sumpter horse with salmon quarter of a salmon, and 6d. for carrying mill-stones, all to the damage of Northampton, whose merchants and brewers he forestalled here, besides distraining them for debt against their privileges.¹⁶ Toll at Cotton and view of frank-

¹ There are sixteen shields, two on each face. For their disposition see Markham, op. cit. 10.

² They are attributed to Alexander of Abingdon and William of Ireland: *Assoc. Arch. Soc. Rep.* vii, 125; Markham, op. cit. 10.

³ *V.C.H. Northants.* iii, 23.

⁴ *Ibid.* i, 273, 305a, 351b.

⁵ See below.

⁶ *Cal. Pat.* 1307-13, p. 158; Ct. R.

(Gen. Ser.), bdle. 195, no. 67.

⁷ *V.C.H. Northants.* i, 360, 375 and note. In 1220 the King of Scotland vouched the King of England to warrant: *Cal. Docts. Scotland*, i, 768.

⁸ *L. and P. Hen. VIII.* xvii, 28 (22).

⁹ *Cal. Chart.* 1327-41, pp. 118-19.

¹⁰ Cott. MS. Vesp. E. xvii, fols. 101 v, 102, 106.

¹¹ *Hund. R.* (Rec. Com.), ii, 1. For its lands and rents in Cotton see *ibid.*

¹² *Feud. Aids*, iv, 6, 27; *Valor Eccles.* (Rec. Com.), iv, 313-14; Feet of F. Div. Co. Hil. 29 Hen. VIII.

¹³ *L. and P. Hen. VIII.* xvi, g. 580 (10); xviii (i), g. 226 (79, p. 131); Pat. 2 Eliz. pt. 13, 5 Eliz. pt. 3, m. 40; Chan. Proc. (Ser. 2), bdle. 3, no. 10.

¹⁴ *Cal. Pat. Edw. VI.* iii, 240-1; iv, 90.

¹⁵ Op. cit. 359.

¹⁶ *Hund. R.* (Rec. Com.), ii, 1, 26, 4, 8, 13.



HARDINGSTONE: QUEEN ELEANOR'S CROSS



HARDINGSTONE CHURCH, FROM THE NORTH-EAST
(From a drawing in the British Museum, c. 1820)

pledge at St. Leonard's were attached to the manor of Yardley Hastings in 1325.¹

The priory of St. Andrew's, having obtained all the Senlis demesnes in Hardingstone, gave back to Earl Simon II for a yearly rent of 60s. a site on which to build the monastery of St. Mary in about 1145.² This was the beginning of Delapré Abbey, which had its home manor here, the manor of *COTTON alias WEST COTTON AND HARDINGSTONE*. Earl Simon the founder gave it the church of Hardingstone, in which the abbey was established,³ all the tenements in Hardingstone of Hugh Grimbald, Walter Dalt and Outus sometime porter of the King of Scots, and the service of Hugh Gobion from two dwellings by the bridge of St. Leonard, and the meadow called Alfwoldesholm.⁴ Other donors made small grants in the parish.⁵ The manor, or half manor, apparently came from the Vipont family. William de Vipont, believed to be grandson of Hugh de Morville, was enfeoffed of lands in Cumberland by King David,⁶ and that king or, more probably, William the Lion granted him 2 hides (i.e. half the manor) in Hardingstone. He was in possession in 1194.⁷ His son Ives succeeded, but joined the rebels in 1217, and the manor was handed over for a while to his brother Robert.⁸ In 1219 the abbess of Delapré claimed 2 hides against William Vipont, stating that the Abbess Odiarda was seised of it in the time of Henry II; and William called to warrant Alexander, King of Scotland. As the last-named called to warrant the King of England the plea was respited until his majority.⁹ In 1236 the case was resumed, by William Vipont's claiming 20 virgates against the abbess;¹⁰ and as late as 1253 the itinerant justices had instruction for the record of a plea of Robert Vipont against the abbess concerning half the manor.¹¹ In 1242-3 the Beseville family held $\frac{1}{2}$ and St. Mary of Delapré $\frac{1}{4}$ of the second knight's fee here;¹² later they were returned as sharing half a fee,¹³ all of which was in the possession of the abbey in 1428,¹⁴ and until its surrender in 1538.¹⁵ The Crown still retained the manor in 1615, when the two royal manors were said to comprise the greater part of the parish or all of it.¹⁶ As with the St. Andrew's manor, various leases were made, including a life grant by Edward VI to Princess Elizabeth, under her father's will.¹⁷ The site of Delapré Abbey came into the possession of the Tate family in 1590, when the queen



TATE. Six pieces or and gules with three Cornish choughs.

granted to Bartholomew Tate the rectory and the manor and grange of Cotton, in fee.¹⁸ He died seised in 1601 and his son and heir Sir William, who married Eleanor daughter and co-heir of William Lord Zouch of Harringworth and was brother of the antiquary Francis,¹⁹ was living there in 1612.²⁰ He died seised of the 'manor or capital messuage and grange commonly called Cotton manor *alias* Cotton Grange', in 1617, leaving a son and heir Zouch, aged 11,²¹ ward of Lord Zouch.²² He became a noted Roundhead and author of the Self-Denying Ordinance. William, son of Zouch, made a settlement of the manor on his marriage with Mary Stedman,²³ in 1673,²⁴ and others 1685 and 1695.²⁵ He and his son Bartholomew lived at Delapré. The latter's son Bartholomew²⁶ was living about 1720 in a house built on the site of the abbey, of which there remained what was supposed to have formed part of a chapel.²⁷ By 1722 he had left the house but was still impropiator of the rectory.²⁸ Edward Long, the author, married his daughter and co-heir Mary;²⁹ but this property came to the Clarkes. John Clarke held some estate here in 1722;³⁰ and Bartholomew Clarke, merchant of London,³¹ acquired the manor. Sir Jacob des Bouverie, bart., married in 1723 Mary his daughter and sole heir. He was created Viscount Folkestone in 1747, their son William Earl of Radnor in 1765.³² The second son Edward, of Delapré Abbey, had this manor and died in 1858 leaving a son General Everard William, of Delapré Abbey, who died childless in 1871 and was succeeded by John Augustus Sheil Bouverie of Delapré Abbey, son of his brother Francis Kenelm Bouverie. He was succeeded in 1894 by his son John Augustus Sheil of Delapré Abbey who died unmarried 1905.³³ His sister Miss Mary Helen Bouverie is now lady of the manor, as tenant for life.

The Beseville family, parceners of Delapré Abbey to the amount of $\frac{1}{2}$ of their joint half fee here, made early grants to both Abbey and priory. Richard de Beseville and Richard his son witnessed an agreement in 1199.³⁴ The latter's son Ralph, who succeeded after 1227,³⁵ gave the abbey his right in the fish-pond of Lachemere³⁶ and was tenant here 1242 and 1284.³⁷ Richard de Beseville was lord 1313 and 1325,³⁸ and in 1356 William Beseville died at Cotton seised of a messuage and rents, leaving a son and heir Richard, aged 3,³⁹ who died a minor. His heir was Elizabeth wife of



BOUVERIE. Party fessewise or and argent an eagle with two heads sable charged on the breast with a scutcheon gules a bend vair.

¹ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* vi, no. 612, p. 388.

² Stenton, *Facsimiles of Early Chart.* (Northants. Rec. Soc.), 144.

³ Presumably the existing church was built subsequently for the use of the parishioners.

⁴ *Cal. Chart.* 1327-41, p. 86; Dugdale, *Mon.* v, 208.

⁵ *Ibid.*

⁶ *Dict. Nat. Biog.* which gives him as lord here in 1199.

⁷ *Abbrev. Plac.* (Rec. Com.), 9.

⁸ *Rot. Lit. Claus.* (Rec. Com.), i, 299b.

⁹ Pipe R. 3 Hen. III, m. 7, 4 Hen. III, m. 4; Hain, *Cal. Docts. Scotland*, i, 742, 768.

¹⁰ *Cal. Close*, 1234-7, p. 333.

¹¹ *Ibid.* 1251-3, p. 445.

¹² *Bk. of Fees*, 938.

¹³ *Feud. Aids*, iv, 6, 27; *Cal. Inq. p.m.*

v, p. 235, vi, p. 391; *Cal. Close*, 1396-9, p. 179.

¹⁴ *Feud. Aids*, iv, 43.

¹⁵ *P.C.H. Northants*, ii, 116.

¹⁶ *Exch. Dep. Mich.* 13 Jas. I, no. 14.

¹⁷ *L. and P. Hen. VIII*, xviii (1), g. 226 (38), xvi (2), g. 476 (p. 245); *Cal. Pat. Edw. VI*, i, 332, iii, 240-1, iv, 90.

¹⁸ *Pat.* 32 Eliz. pt. xvii.

¹⁹ Bridges, op. cit. 365-6.

²⁰ *Cal. S.P. Dom.* 1611-18, p. 118.

²¹ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), ccclxv, 149.

²² *Cal. S.P. Dom.* 1619-23, p. 68.

²³ Bridges, op. cit. 361 seqq.

²⁴ Feet of F. Northants. East. 25 Chas. II.

²⁵ *Ibid.* Trin. 36 Chas. II, Trin. 7 Will. III.

²⁶ *Exch. Dep. Mich.* 9 Geo. I, no. 13.

²⁷ Bridges, op. cit. 364-6.

²⁸ *Exch. Dep. loc. cit.*

²⁹ *Dict. Nat. Biog.*

³⁰ *Exch. Dep. loc. cit.*

³¹ *P.C.H. Berks*, iii, 129.

³² Burke, *Peerage* (1934).

³³ *Ibid.*

³⁴ Cott. MS. Vesp. E. xvii, fol. 113 d.

³⁵ Feet of F. Northants. 11 Hen. III, file 19, no. 144.

³⁶ *Chart. R.* 2 Edw. III, m. 15, no. 47; see also Harl. Chart. 46, D. 30.

³⁷ *Bk. of Fees*, 938; *Feud. Aids*, iv, 6; *Abbrev. Plac.* (Rec. Com.), 154.

Geoffrey Beseville of Cotton made a grant about 1298 (*Add. Chart.* 47075, 47077-8) and was perhaps elder son of Ralph.

³⁸ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* v, no. 412, p. 235, vi, no. 612, p. 391; *Cal. Close*, 1323-7, p. 433.

³⁹ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* x, no. 287.

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William Lombe.¹ She and her husband had seisin in 1367² and William Lambe was holding in 1376.³ By 1428 Delapré Abbey was the sole tenant.

RAVENS-CROFT'S alias HARVEY'S MANOR, held of the honor of Huntingdon, seems to have originated in the possessions of the Gaytons and Cogenhoses. In 1325 Giles de Cogenhoe was returned as tenant of half a fee, but this mesne lordship is no further mentioned.

Philip de Quenton in 1284 held 6 virgates in Cotes by serjeanty,⁴ and four years later made a fine with Philip de Gayton,⁵ from whom he had evidently purchased; and the lord of the barony of Wardon, who held Kingshall meadow, probably in these fields,⁶ was also concerned.⁷ Theobald de Gayton held 3 parts of a knight's fee in Brafield, Hardingstone, and Cotton in 1316.⁸ About 1306 William son of Michael⁹ gave land in Hardingstone to Henry de Longueville in marriage with his daughter Joan. Henry and Joan died without issue, and in 1328 William son of Adam son of William son of Michael of Northampton claimed this land against John de Longueville of Little Billing and next year against George his son;¹⁰ Elizabeth Longueville married James Swetenham,¹¹ and John Meyho, clerk, presumably trustee to uses, conveyed the manor to Nicholas Swetenham with contingent remainders to James, John, Randell, and William Swetenham in tail male, John Kingsley and Henry Ravenscroft in fee simple. Nicholas and James succeeded in turn. John meanwhile died childless and Thomas son of Randell succeeded and died childless. William then held the manor, then John Kingsley, and they dying childless were followed by Henry Ravenscroft.¹² That was the

Hugh died in his lifetime, leaving a son Henry who succeeded his grandfather in the manor and was father of Henry Ravenscroft, lord in the early 16th century.¹⁵ Thomas Ravenscroft was a free tenant of the royal manor of Cotton and Hardingstone in 1543 and owed suit of court.¹⁶ There followed a George Ravenscroft, whose inheritance by 1584 was in the occupation of Stephen Harvey,¹⁷ auditor of the Duchy of Lancaster, who died in 1606 in the manor-house. Also his wife Anne, who died in 1590, was buried in the 'Harvey' aisle in the church, a burial-place 'time out of mind' for those whose estate they held here.¹⁸ His son Sir Francis, judge of the Common Pleas, settled the manor on his son Stephen, K.B., who predeceased him in 1630.¹⁹ Sir Francis was followed in 1632 by Stephen's young son Francis,²⁰ who was succeeded by his brother Richard in 1645.²¹ James Harvey, rector of Weston Favell and a devotional writer, son of William Harvey rector of Collingtree, was born here in 1714.²² He had a brother William, perhaps the William Harvey who held an estate in 1722;²³ but the mansion-house was in ruins and the greater part of the property, together with the manorial rights, was in the possession of the Tates of Delapré Abbey.²⁴

The leper hospital of St. Leonard, founded about 1150 by Ralph de Stafford, lay south of the bridge at Cotton End, also called St. Leonard's End or Wick, by the London road, a good spot for begging. It had semi-parochial rights.²⁵ It was taken as a chantry into the king's hands and granted in 1548 to Francis Samwell.²⁶ The corporation protested and it was restored. The lazar-house was pulled down in 1823; but a poor man or woman was maintained up to 1840. In 1864 the property was assigned to the support of Northampton Grammar School.²⁷

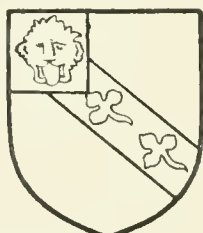
St. James's Abbey, Northampton, possessed about 10 acres of meadow land from the 13th century in Cotton 'marsh', near the bridge, receiving grants from the families of Saucey and Thorpe, Beseville and Cogenhoe,²⁸ and holding a fulling mill.²⁹ Edward VI alienated the meadow to Sir Thomas Tresham.³⁰

A messuage and meadow called Plash in Hardingstone were held in 1364 by the hospital of St. John the Baptist of Northampton.³¹ In 1543 the masters of that hospital and the hospital of St. Thomas of Northampton were free tenants and owed suit of court at the former Delapré manor.³²

The church of *ST. EDMUND* consists of chancel, 29 ft. by 15 ft. 6 in., with south aisle or chapel, now used as a vestry and organ-chamber; clerestoried nave, 49 ft. 6 in. by 16 ft.; north and south aisles 9 ft. wide, north and south



RAVENS-CROFT. *Argent a chevron between three ravens' heads sable.*



HARVEY. *Gules a bend argent with three trefoils vert thereon and a quarter or with a leopard's head gules therein.*

story of 100 years later. Richard Swetenham, however, was the tenant in the official return 1428.¹³ Henry Ravenscroft was holding meadow in Cotton in 1467 that had belonged to James Swetenham.¹⁴ His son

¹ Chan. Inq. p.m. 40 Edw. III (1st nos.), no. 9.

² *Abbrev. Rot. Orig.* (Rec. Com.), i, 291.

³ *Cal. Close*, 1374-7, p. 189.

⁴ *Feud. Aids*, iv, 6. Thomas le Serjaunt gave a messuage in Hardingstone to Delapré: *Mon. Angl.* v, 209.

⁵ Feet of F. Northants. 17 Edw. I, no. 255.

⁶ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* vii, p. 424. This part of the royal demesne was the object of a grant in 1191: *Pipe R.* 3 Ric. I (Pipe R. Soc.), 153.

⁷ Feet of F. Northants. 19 Edw. I, no. 276.

⁸ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* v, p. 235.

⁹ Michael was ancestor on the maternal side of Theobald.

¹⁰ *Plac. de Banc.* Mich. 2 Edw. III, m. 91; *Assize R.* 633, m. 27.

¹¹ Chan. Inq. p.m. 36 Hen. VI, no. 36.

¹² Early Chan. Proc. bdle. 353, no. 22.

¹³ *Feud. Aids*, iv, 43.

¹⁴ Harl. R. G. 31. It is difficult to connect Millicent daughter and heir of 'Ravenscroft of Cotton-End' who married John Morris (died 1467) of Bray, Berks. *Dict. Nat. Biog.*

¹⁵ Early Chan. Proc. loc. cit.

¹⁶ Ct. R. (Gen. Ser.), portf. 195, no. 17.

¹⁷ Exch. Dep. Trin. 26 Eliz. no. 8.

¹⁸ Bridges, op. cit. 360-2.

¹⁹ Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), cccclix, 47.

²⁰ Ibid. cccclxv, 59.

²¹ Ibid. dxxiii, 45.

²² *Dict. Nat. Biog.* s.v. 'Harvey'.

²³ Exch. Dep. Mich. 9 Geo. I, no. 13.

²⁴ Bridges, op. cit. 362-3. The Rudyard family obtained the Harvey Berkshire lands by the marriage of William Rudyard with Sarah daughter and co-heir of Sir Stephen Harvey of Northampton: *V.C.H. Berks.* iv, 244.

²⁵ *V.C.H. Northants.* i, 159, iii, 31, 60.

²⁶ *Cal. Pat. Edw. VI*, i, 311: to be held of the king's manor of Green's Norton.

²⁷ *V.C.H. Northants.* iii, 20-2, 60.

²⁸ Add. Chart. 47053, 47055-6, 47059; Feet of F. Northants. 13 Edw. I, case 174, file 54, no. 161; *Inq. Non.* (Rec. Com.), 27; *Valor Eccles.* (Rec. Com.), iv, 319.

²⁹ *Hund. R.* (Rec. Com.), ii, 26.

³⁰ *Cal. Pat. Edw. VI*, iv, 200-3.

³¹ Chan. Inq. p.m. 38 Edw. III (2nd nos.), no. 53.

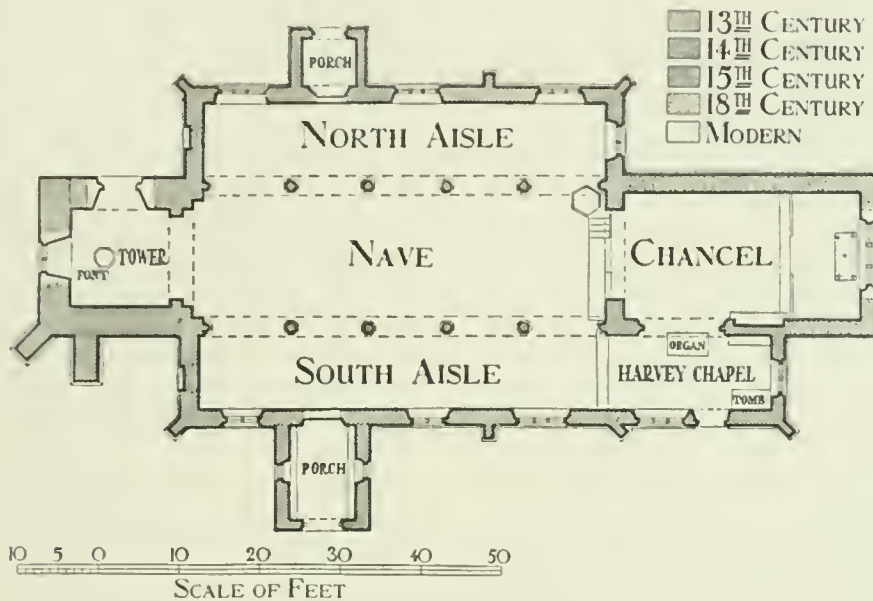
³² Ct. R. (Gen. Ser.), portf. 195, no. 17.

porches, and west tower, 12 ft. square, all these measurements being internal. The width across nave and aisles is 37 ft. 6 in. The north and south doorways are blocked and porches disused, the main entrance to the church being by a modern doorway in the north wall of the tower.

The greater part of the present building is of 14th-century date, but the lower part of the tower may belong to an earlier structure. The 14th-century rebuilding comprised chancel, aisled nave, north porch, and the upper part of the tower; early in the 15th century the chapel on the south side of the chancel was added, or an older one modified, and the south porch erected. Extensive repairs and alterations in the 18th century

pitched east gable is now surmounted by a modern Gothic cross, and the modern pointed east window is of three lights with Decorated tracery. The north and south walls are without windows but on the south the chancel is open to the chapel at its west end by a 15th-century pointed arch of two chamfered orders, the inner order on half-octagonal responds with moulded capitals and bases.⁴ No ancient ritual arrangements have been retained: the floor is flagged. The pointed chancel arch is of two chamfered orders with hood-moulds, resting on modern moulded corbels.

The chapel⁵ is open to the aisle at its west end, the intervening wall having been removed, though the original diagonal angle buttress of the aisle was left



PLAN OF HARDINGSTONE CHURCH

have left their mark on the fabric, especially in the chancel, the north, east, and part of the south walls of which appear to have been rebuilt on the old foundations.¹ The date 1764 on the lead covering the roof of the south aisle² probably indicates approximately the time when these reparations took place. In 1868-9 the whole of the 18th-century fittings were removed, the tower arch opened out, new roofs erected over the aisles, the other roofs repaired, a new east window inserted in the chancel, and the whole of the walls replastered.³

The tower is of rubble, and the nave, aisles, and porches of roughly coursed dressed ironstone. The roofs are leaded and of low pitch behind straight parapets, except in the north aisle where the parapet is battlemented.

As rebuilt in the 18th century the chancel is faced with ashlar, with quoins at its four angles, chamfered plinth and plain cornice and parapet, the latter broken by projections into four unequal bays. The low-

standing. There is a four-centred doorway in the south wall and west of it a square-headed window of three cinquefoiled lights; the two-light east window, which is wholly restored or modern, is also square-headed.

The early-14th-century nave arcades consist of five pointed arches of two chamfered orders, with hood-moulds on one side, springing from octagonal pillars with moulded capitals and bases, and from responds of similar character. On the north side the capitals are alike, but on the south they differ in detail though their general character is the same. The bases, with one exception,⁶ have all a double roll moulding and stand on square plinths.⁷

The aisles have diagonal angle buttresses, chamfered plinths, and strings at sill level; their west windows are blocked, but appear to have been of a single pointed light. On the north side the three windows in the north wall are tall square-headed openings of three trefoiled lights, and that at the east end is of the same character but of two lights.⁸ The pointed north door-

otherwise the chapel was not touched.

⁶ The south-west pillar, which with the arch is of limestone; elsewhere internally the dressed stone is local ironstone.

⁷ The plinths are 2 ft. 3 in. square and 15 in. high.

⁸ All these windows are wholly restored.

¹ Other evidences of 18th-century repair remain in the plastered ceilings of both porches, the finial on the gable of the north porch, the pinnacles of the tower, and a small font bowl in the churchyard.

² *Northants. N. & Q.* n.s. iv, 149. Cast in the lead in letters 2½ in. high are the words 'The Honourable Edward Bouverie Esq^r 1764'.

³ The work was done under the direction of Robert Palgrave, architect, London. The church was reopened for divine service on 9 February 1869: *N'ton Mercury*, 13 February 1869.

⁴ The arch is hidden by the organ-case.

⁵ Known as the Harvey Chapel; the Harvey monuments are described below. The organ was set up here in 1868, but

A HISTORY OF NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

way is of two continuous wave-moulded orders. The windows of the south aisle are also square-headed, the easternmost being of three and the others of two cinque-foiled lights, and the doorway is of two continuous moulded orders. Internally there is no trace of either doorway, the blocking masonry being covered with plaster. No ancient ritual arrangements remain in either aisle.

The clerestory has three plain square-headed windows on each side. The north porch¹ is without buttresses and has a wave-moulded pointed doorway and low-pitched coped gable with 18th-century finial. The larger south porch has a four-centred moulded doorway and single-light lateral windows. The stone benches are in position but the floor has been removed to allow of access to a heating-chamber.

The tower is of two stages, the older lower stage serving as an entrance porch. The square-headed west window, like the north doorway, was inserted during the 1868 restoration and represents no ancient feature. A buttress at the south-west angle and one against the south wall were probably added subsequent to the erection of the upper stage in the 14th century. There is no vice. The pointed bell-chamber windows are of two trefoiled lights with quatrefoil in the head, and the tower terminates in a battlemented parapet with 18th-century angle pinnacles surmounted by iron vanes.² The wide pointed tower arch is of three square orders towards the nave, on chamfered impost, the vousoirs being alternately of dark- and light-coloured ironstone.

The font is modern, with octagonal stone bowl, in the style of the 14th century.³ The oak pulpit is in memory of the Rev. N. T. Hughes, vicar 1892–1913.

The fine alabaster monument, erected 'to the pious memory of Stephen Harvey Esq. [d. 1606] auditor of the Dutchy of Lancaster', his wife (d. 1590), and three sons, stands against the north wall of the chapel at its east end. The kneeling figures of the man and wife together with a shield of arms are above the cornice, below which are three canopied recesses containing the effigies of their sons, all kneeling, the youngest, Stephen Harvey, citizen and merchant of London 'by whose appointment this monument was erected', being in the middle.⁴ On either side are Sir Francis Harvey, kt., one of the Judges of the Common Pleas (eldest son) who died 1632 and 'lyeth hereby buried', and William Harvey, who died 1633 and was buried at Weston Favell. The arched canopies are supported by columns of black marble, and in the lower part of the monument are inscribed black marble tablets.

The monument of Sir Stephen Harvey, Knight of the Bath (d. 1630), son of Sir Francis, is against the

south wall of the chapel, and is of white marble with recumbent figure in the habit of the time.⁵

Within an arched recess in the south wall of the chancel is a table-tomb, the slab of which is without inscription and at present forms a seat. The arch is enriched with Renaissance ornament and is surmounted with the Tate crest.⁶ On the north wall is a large marble monument by Rysbrack with portrait busts to Bartholomew Clarke of Rothampton (d. 1746) father of Lady Bouverie, and Hitch Young (d. 1759) brother to Mrs. Clarke, and in the chancel floor are the marble grave-slabs of Bartholomew Tate (d. 1704) and Mary widow of William Tate (d. 1699). A tablet at the west end of the south aisle records the burial in a vault under the chancel of Benjamin Clarke (d. 1765),⁷ and the chancel contains a number of marble tablets to members of the Bouverie family, and one of alabaster to John Augustus Sheil Bouverie (d. 1894) and his son Francis Kenelm (d. 1891). In the aisles are a number of memorial tablets of 18th- and 19th-century date, and one in oak in memory of twenty-five men of the parish who fell in the war of 1914–18. In the south aisle is an iron-bound chest with three locks.

There is a ring of five bells, the first, fourth, and tenor dated 1669, the third by Henry Bagley I of Chacombe, 1682, and the second by Taylor & Co. of Loughborough, 1871.⁸

The plate consists of a silver cup of 1810, and a plated paten, flagon, and bread-holder.⁹

The registers before 1812 are as follows: (i) all entries 1562–1651; (ii) baptisms 1653–1726, marriages 1677–1726, burials 1676–1726; (iii) burials 1678–1722; (iv) baptisms and marriages 1727–48, burials 1727–50; (v) baptisms 1749–1805, marriages 1749–53, burials 1751–1805; (vi) marriages 1754–79; (vii) baptisms and burials 1805–12; (viii) marriages 1779–1805; (ix) marriages 1805–12.

The church and whole tithe was *AD FOWSON* given to St. Andrew's priory by its founder.¹⁰ The priory held the church appropriated to its uses, a perpetual vicarage being set out in 1224,¹¹ until its surrender. The Crown then retained it until 1874,¹² though, on account of its small value, it was in the gift of the Lord Chancellor, not the king.¹³ In 1874 it was transferred to the bishop of Peterborough, the present patron.¹⁴

Delapré Abbey in 1535 paid 13s. 4d. stipend to a chaplain to celebrate mass once weekly in the chapel of 'Gore', not otherwise recorded. From its first foundation it gave 21s. 8d. yearly to the poor in money, bread, and fish, and a further 5s. yearly from later benefactions.¹⁵

The chapel of St. Leonard probably dated from the foundation of the hospital, and there is a list of chap-

¹ The porch is used as a storeplace for tools.

² The vane at the south-east angle is surmounted by a cross.

³ It is of Mansfield stone, the gift of the architect, Robert Palgrave, in 1868. It replaced the 18th-century font now in the churchyard.

⁴ He died 1636 and was buried in the church of St. Mary-on-the-Hill, Billingsgate, London. The monument is described and the inscriptions are given by Bridges, *Hist. of Northants.* i, 360.

⁵ The monument is described and the inscription given in Bridges, op. cit. i, 362. Sir Stephen married Mary, only daughter of Richard Murden, of Moreton

Morrell, co. Warwick, by whom he had two sons and six daughters. He died at the age of thirty-four. There is a shield of arms at the west end of the tomb, the east and south sides of which are against the wall. Under the effigy, on the long side, are the words 'Obdormivi—Resurgam'.

⁶ It is apparently the monument in this position described by Bridges as of 'free-stone covered with black marble' to Bartholomew Tate of Delapré (d. 1704), but the ornament appears to be earlier in date.

⁷ He was brother of Bartholomew Clarke and had issue two daughters, who married respectively Timothy Rogers and John Heycock.

⁸ North, *Ch. Bells of Northants.* 289,

where the inscriptions are given. The first, fourth, and tenor are apparently by Henry Bagley though his name is not on them; the tenor has a stop which he frequently used. The bells were rehung by A. Bowell of Ipswich in 1910. In 1552 there were four great bells and one sanctus bell broken.

⁹ Markham, *Ch. Plate of Northants.* 144.

¹⁰ *Cal. Chart.* 1327–41, p. 119.

¹¹ *Rot. Hug. de Welles* (Cant. and York Soc.), ii, 113.

¹² *Inst. Bks.* (P.R.O.).

¹³ *Cal. S.P. Dom.* 1676–7, p. 343.

¹⁴ *London Gaz.* 10 July 1874, p. 3437.

¹⁵ *Valor Eccles.* (Rec. Com.), iv, 321.

lains from 1282 to 1415.¹ All the rights of a parish church were confirmed to it in 1281. The mayor and burgesses of Northampton were patrons, but the Bishop of Lincoln decreed in 1281 that their presentations must receive the consent of the prior of St. Andrew's and the vicar of Hardingstone.²

Robert Lucas, divine and poet, was curate at Hardingstone 1778–82.³ The Independent minister, Risdon Darracott, began his labours here about 1738.⁴ A Baptist chapel was registered for marriages in 1875.⁵

Charity Estates. These estates which *CHARITIES* consisted of three closes of land containing in all 27 a. 2 r. 36 p. together with a yearly sum of £1 6s. 8d. issuing out of lands in Collingtree are understood to have been in part derived under gifts of freeholders and inhabitants of the parish and were partly purchased with sundry benefactions for the poor and for apprenticing children. The charity is now regulated by a Scheme of the Charity Commissioners dated 17 January 1908 under the provisions of which a body of 5 representative trustees and 6 co-optative trustees were appointed. The land has been sold and the proceeds invested, the income amounting to about £30 10s.

The Church Charity. A yearly sum of 10s. is paid by the trustees of the Charity Estates to the vicar of Hardingstone subject to the condition that he preaches a sermon on Easter Monday in the parish church.

Clark's Charity. John Clark by will dated 26 October

1762 bequeathed £150, the income thereon to be laid out by the vicar of Hardingstone in buying four new warm cloth coats to be given to four of the most indigent poor men of the parish. The endowment now consists of £270 2½%. Consols held by the Official Trustees the dividends on which amounting to £6 15s. annually are applied by the vicar in accordance with the trusts.

Murray's Charity. Elizabeth Murray by will proved about 1776 gave £300, the interest therefrom to be applied to clothing four poor women in the parish. The charity is now regulated by a Scheme of the Charity Commissioners dated 27 June 1913 whereby a body of 4 representative trustees and 2 co-optative trustees was appointed. The income arising from the endowment consisting of £348 6s. 7d. 2½% Consols is applied in clothing.

Everard William Bouverie by his will proved in 1872 gave £500 3% Annuities, the income thereof to be distributed amongst ten poor industrious families or persons of good character and sober habits in the parish. The charity is administered by the vicar and 4 trustees appointed by the parish council and the income amounts to £12 10s.

Unknown Donor. An annual sum is payable as a rent or acknowledgement for a small piece of land in Great Houghton. In lieu of the rent a coat of the value of £2 is now given annually to a poor man. The origin of the payment is unknown.

HORTON

Horton (xi cent.); Hortun (xiii cent.).

The parish of Horton lies 6½ miles south-east from Northampton on the road to Newport Pagnell, with a station on the Northampton and Bedford branch of the L.M.S. railway. The area is 1,930 acres of land and 6 of water and the soil is clay and marl with subsoil of stone. The chief crops are wheat, oats, and beans, and there is some pasture. The land lies between about 300 ft. to 400 ft. above the ordnance datum. There is a group of six cottages north of the church, and a few scattered farms, but no real village. Horton House, standing in a park of about 200 acres, in which there is a long lake fed by several streams, was pulled down in 1936. It was a large 18th-century stone mansion of two main stories and an attic, with an Ionic portico, built by Lord Halifax. The park also contained a building formerly used by Lord Halifax as a menagerie. To the south of the parish lie Horton wood and Little Horton wood now (1936) being felled. Little Horton House, a small Georgian house, stands in its own grounds of about 30 acres off the Horton-Brafield road.

In the early 18th century the parish was inclosed and contained 8 or 9 families. By Local Government Board Order of 24 March 1884, a detached part of Great Houghton was added to this parish and Cheney

Brand's farm⁶ transferred from Cogenhoe. The population in 1931 was 844 in the civil parish.

In 1066, 3 virgates in *HORTON* were *MANORS* held by Turbern of the Bishop of Coutances,⁷ 2 hides by Otbert of Walter the Fleming,⁸ and half a hide by Turbern of the Countess Judith, who also held 1 hide of socland as a part of the manor of Yardley Hastings.⁹ In the 12th-century survey these three fees were described respectively as 6 virgates held by Walter fitz Winemar of the fee of Olney;¹⁰ 2 hides, 1 small virgate held by Alouf de Merk, son of Otbert, of the fee of Wahull;¹¹ and 6 virgates held by Turgis de Quenton of King David, who had 3 small virgates in addition.¹²

The holding of Walter fitz Winemar passed to his descendants, the Prestons of Preston Deanery, and its history can be traced under their part of Preston which was held of the fee of Chester (q.v.). In 1235–6 William de Serlingford (*sic*) was said to hold one knight's fee in Horton of Olney.¹³ This was possibly an over-estimate, as his holding seems to correspond to the 4½ virgates and other land there held by Sarah de Scrimplingford of Gilbert de Preston in 1274,¹⁴ and Gilbert was said to hold of the king by service of one eighth of a knight's fee, and in the following year his heir held half a fee in Preston, Hackleton, and Horton

¹ See Bridges, *op. cit.* 363–4.

² *Ibid.*; *P.C.H. Northants.* ii, 160.

³ *Dict. Nat. Biog.*

⁴ *Ibid.*

⁵ *Land. Gaz.* 15 March 1875, p. 1637.

⁶ John son of Robert Cheyne complained, about 1570, that John Clerke and others had perambulated the bounds of Ravenstone, Bucks., so as to include 'Cokenowe Brande', which had always

been part of the manor of Cogenhoe: *Chan.*

Proc. (Ser. 2), file 31, no. 74.

⁷ *P.C.H. Northants.* i, 311b. This was held by Frano in the time of King Edward.

⁸ *Ibid.* 340b.

⁹ *Ibid.* 351, 352b.

¹⁰ *Ibid.* 376a.

¹¹ *Ibid.* 375b.

¹² *Ibid.* 376a.

¹³ *Bk. of Fees*, 502. Farrer (*Honors and Knights' Fees*, ii, 19) appears wrongly to have taken this to refer to Horton, co. Buckingham.

¹⁴ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* ii, no. 69, p. 49. Fines concerning the family of Preston in Horton are Feet of F. case 173, file 37, no. 579; case 174, file 46, no. 819.

of the fee of Chester.¹ No more is heard of the Scrimplingford tenancy, but part, at least, of the lands may have been acquired by Aubrey de Whittlebury.²

The history of the mesne tenures of the fee of King David which passed to the honor of Huntingdon is obscure because the land became attached to holdings elsewhere.³ In 1284 the tenants of John de Hastings were Henry de Hackleton for one carucate and the Abbot of St. James by Northampton for 2 virgates.⁴ The carucate probably represents part at least of the former holding of Turgis de Quenton, as in 1246 Roger de Hackleton had acquired land here from John Passelewe and Mabel his wife,⁵ who seems to have been the daughter of Sewal de Quenton.⁶ Its subsequent descent is unknown.

The Wahull overlordship by 1235-6 had descended to William fitz Warin in right of his wife Agnes the daughter of John de Wahull.⁷ He was then holding half a knight's fee in Horton and 3½ fees in Evenley, Horton, Charlton, and Astwick,⁸ and his sub-tenant for at least part of the land was Hugh son of Richard Gubion.⁹ In 1231 this Hugh had been impleaded in respect of land in Horton,¹⁰ and in 1242 he shared with John de Shirington and Ralph Dayrel the one knight's fee in Horton held of Saer de Wahull.¹¹ Land in Horton had been acquired by John de Shirington in right of his wife Joan from Ralf de Evenley in 1232.¹² Dayrel's part was probably included in the 2 carucates, &c., in Horton, Hackleton, and Quinton which passed to him by fine from William de Horton in 1242, confirmed by Nicholas de Horton three years later.¹³

In 1284 the mesne tenants of this fee were John Morteyn and Laurence de Preston for half a knight's fee, John Sherington for one carucate, and Aubrey de Whittlebury for one carucate held of Laurence de Preston.¹⁴ In 1304, under Thomas de Wahull, ½ fee was held by Ralf le Botiler, Henry de Sewelle and the heirs of Richard Gubion, ¼ fee by John de Sheryngton and ¼ fee by John de Whittlebury.¹⁵ Henry de Sewelle was probably tenant in right of his wife Joan, the widow of John Morteyn.¹⁶ Nothing more is known of the Sheryngton tenure.

On the death of Sir Richard Gubion, son of Hugh Gubion, in 1300, it was found that he held in Horton 10½ acres assart of the king, also ⅓ of a fee; his heirs were his daughters Avice, wife of Ralf le Botiler of Northbury, co. Stafford, and Elizabeth, aged 13,¹⁷ and in 1316 Ralf was returned as lord of Horton.¹⁸ On the death of his widow in 1361 his grandson Edward, son of John Botiler, was the heir to 4 messuages and 4 half-virgates of land in Horton.¹⁹ He died without heirs, so that the estate passed to Sir Philip Botiler of Woodhall, co. Hertford, the grandson of Ralf, second son of Ralf

and Avice.²⁰ He died in 1420 leaving his son Philip a minor, who was succeeded in 1453 by his son John, aged 18.²¹ The subsequent history of this estate is obscure.

The portion of the Wahull fee held in 1284 by Aubrey de Whittlebury seems to represent that held by Ralph Dayrel in 1242, as in 1262 Sybil Dayrel conveyed to Aubrey the reversion of 2 carucates in Horton;²² and this can be traced back to 1241, when William de Horton conveyed the property to Ralph Dayrel.²³ On the death of Aubrey de Whittlebury from drowning in 1290 a capital messuage with 5 virgates comprised ¼ fee held by him of John de Wodhull by service including 18*d.* yearly for the castleguard of Rockingham.²⁴ The John de Whittlebury named above as tenant in 1304²⁵ was later succeeded by his son Aubrey.²⁶ In 1369 the Escheator was ordered not to meddle with the manor of Horton with appurtenances in Piddington which Joan, widow of Aubrey, held at her death jointly with her husband.²⁷ Her heir was her son John, whose proof of age had been taken in 1353 on the death of his brother Thomas.²⁸ This John died in 1400 seised of the manor, called *WITTELBERYES PLACE*, worth £4, and said to be held of the king in chief.²⁹ On the death of his son Aubrey six years later the land was said to be held partly of the barony of Wahull and partly of Reynold de Grey of Ruthin.³⁰ His heir was his daughter Isabel, who later married Sir Henry de Plessington, but there is no record that they continued to hold land in Horton.

In 1452-3 the manor of *HORTON* was in the hands of John Mortimer of Grendon;³¹ and Roger Salisbury of Grendon died seised of it in 1492, when it was said to be held of George, Earl of Kent, as of the manor of Cotton beside Northampton.³² From Roger's son William in 1511 it passed to his daughter Mary.³³ She married Sir William Parr, who, being made chamberlain to his niece Queen Catherine, was created Baron Parr of Horton in 1543.³⁴ The manor, including one windmill and appurtenances in Piddington and Hackleton, was settled on them for life and afterwards on their daughter Maud and her husband Sir Ralph Lane.³⁵ Sir William Parr died in 1546 and his widow in 1555,³⁶ when the estate passed to their grandson Sir Robert, son of Maud and Sir Ralph Lane,³⁷ and he with his wife Catherine was party to a fine concerning the manor in 1557.³⁸ Their son Sir William Lane, who married Mary daughter of Sir Thomas Andrew, in 1597 settled the manor upon himself and his wife with remainder to their son Robert and his wife Theodosia.³⁹ Robert died before his father, and Theodosia then married Edward Thynne, esquire, before 1616, when Sir William Lane was succeeded by his grandson William,

¹ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* ii, no. 128, p. 84.

² See Piddington, below, p. 277.

³ e.g. in 1325 and 1376 half a fee in Brafield, Great and Little Houghton, and Horton, and another half fee in Great Houghton and Horton: *Cal. Inq. p.m.* vi, p. 391; *Cal. Close*, 1374-7, p. 189.

⁴ *Feud. Aids*, iv, 7.

⁵ Feet of F. Northants. 31 Hen. III, no. 510.

⁶ *Ibid.* 24 Hen. III, no. 421.

⁷ Farrer, *op. cit.* i, 64.

⁸ *Bk. of Fees*, 495, cf. 500.

⁹ For this family see Farrer, i, 83-5. Richard Gubion, 'Dominus de Horton', granted the church to the Abbot of St. James, Northampton: Harl. Chart. 50 H. 11.

¹⁰ *Cal. Close*, 1227-31, p. 602.

¹¹ *Bk. of Fees*, 940.

¹² Feet of F. case 172, file 25, no. 294.

¹³ *Ibid.* case 173, file 32, no. 462; case 173, file 33, no. 493.

¹⁴ *Feud. Aids*, iv, 6.

¹⁵ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* iv, no. 219.

¹⁶ *V.C.H. Beds.* iii, 433.

¹⁷ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* iv, no. 37; *Cal. Fine*, i, 438.

¹⁸ *Feud. Aids*, iv, 26.

¹⁹ *Cal. Fine*, vii, 150.

²⁰ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 8 Hen. V, no. 78;

6 Hen. VI, no. 30.

²¹ *Ibid.* 31 Hen. VI, no. 27.

²² Feet of F. Northants. Hen. III, no. 828 a.

²³ *Ibid.* no. 462.

²⁴ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* ii, no. 784.

²⁵ *Ibid.* iv, no. 219.

²⁶ *V.C.H. Rutland*, ii, 160.

²⁷ *Cal. Close*, 1369-74, p. 19.

²⁸ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* x, no. 201.

²⁹ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 1 Hen. IV, no. 41.

³⁰ *Ibid.* 8 Hen. IV, no. 48.

³¹ Bridges, i, 367.

³² *Cal. Inq. p.m. Hen. VII*, i, 341.

³³ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), lxxviii, 38.

³⁴ *Dict. Nat. Biog.*

³⁵ Feet of F. Northants. East. 32 Hen.

VIII; Common Pleas R. 1105, m. 107.

³⁶ M.I. in Horton church.

³⁷ Sir Ralph Lane died in 1540: *V.C.H. Bucks.* iii, 399; W. C. Metcalfe, *Visitation of Northants.* 185-6.

³⁸ Feet of F. Northants. Trin. 3 & 4 Ph. and M.

³⁹ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), ccclxiii, 209.



HORTON HOUSE



HORTON CHURCH, FROM THE SOUTH
(From a drawing by G. Clarke, c. 1825)

aged 17. At this date the manor was still held of the barony of Wuhull by service of one knight's fee, suit of court and 6s. yearly towards the castleguard of Rockingham.¹

At the beginning of the reign of Charles I William Lane sold to Ralph Freeman, alderman of London, all rights in the manor together with the rectory and advowson.² This estate is said to have passed into the possession of Sir Henry Montagu,³ who was created Earl of Manchester in 1626⁴ and died in 1642.⁵ Three years later a recovery relating to the property was suffered between Edward, Lord Montagu, Margaret, dowager Countess of Manchester, third wife of Sir Henry Montagu, and his half-brother George Montagu, esq., son of the said Margaret.⁶ This George appears to have become lord of Horton and was buried there in 1681.⁷ His grandson George⁸ was party to settlements in 1712 and 1738.⁹ George Montagu was appointed auditor of the Exchequer in 1714 and in the following year became Baron and then Earl of Halifax as nephew and heir of Charles, the fourth son of George Montagu of Horton.¹⁰ His son George Montagu, Earl of Halifax, succeeded him in 1739 and died at Horton without issue male in

degree of the tower, which are of early-14th-century date, the fabric retains very little ancient work. The slated roofs are all new and without parapets, the roof of the chancel being considerably higher and of steeper pitch than that of the nave. The chancel is faced with coursed roughly dressed stone, but in the nave, aisle, and porch the walling is finely dressed and in alternating courses (three and two) of limestone and local ironstone.

Bridges, writing about 1720, states that 'the church has been repaired by the Earl of Halifax, and is now handsomely pewed with oak and paved with freestone',¹⁴ and though in 1862 the fabric underwent an extensive restoration, amounting almost to a rebuilding, some traces of this 18th-century 'repair' still remain. The more recent work is in the style of the 14th century; but the chief interest of the building lies in its monuments. Internally all the walls, except those of the tower, are plastered, and the floors tiled.

The chancel has pairs of buttresses at the east end and a modern pointed east window of three lights with Decorated tracery. In the south wall are two modern pointed windows of two trefoiled lights, but the north wall is blank. No ancient features have survived. The sanctuary floor is of marble, and there is a single marble sedile in the south side. The chancel arch is modern: there is no screen.

The early-14th-century nave arcade is of three bays, with pointed arches of two chamfered orders springing from octagonal pillars with moulded capitals and bases, and from moulded corbels at the ends: the double roll is used in the bases. The nave roof is of low pitch, and the wall above the arcade is unpierced. All the windows in the nave and aisle are modern,¹⁵ of one or two lights, and of Decorated character. The south doorway and porch are modern.¹⁶

The tower is of rubble and is of three stages marked by strings, with diagonal buttresses on the west to the height of the lower part of the second stage only. On the west side, near the top of the lower stage, is an original pointed window of two uncusped lights, with an elliptical opening in the head, the hood-mould of which has been cut away. The tower retains the straight moulded parapet of the 18th century, with short pilasters at the angles,¹⁷ and a lofty and elaborate iron vane: in the middle stage there is a large circular opening on three sides, those to the south and west serving for clock dials, the other glazed. The single-light pointed bell-chamber windows are of very plain character and apparently of late date, but they are partly covered by the wooden frames of the louvre boards. The pointed tower arch is of a single order, chamfered on the edge and without hood-mould. There is no vice. The ground story of the tower is used as a vestry, separated from the nave by a low oak screen erected in 1910.

The font in use is modern and of an elaborate Gothic

was divided from the nave by 'a wainscot screen supported by fluted pilasters of the Ionic order'.

¹⁵ The walls of the nave and aisle above the plinth appear to have been wholly rebuilt.

¹⁶ The small trefoil side-lights of the porch are old. No porch is mentioned by Bridges.

¹⁷ Bridges speaks of an 'embattled tower'. The parapet may therefore be later in date than the work done by Lord Halifax.



MONTAGU. *Argent a fesse indented of three points gules and a border sable, quartered with or an eagle vert.*



GUNNING. *Gules a fesse sable ermined or between three doves with three crosses formy party gules and azure on the fesse.*

1771.¹¹ The estate was purchased by Sir Robert Gunning, K.B., minister plenipotentiary at the Courts of Denmark, Berlin, and St. Petersburg, who was created a baronet in 1778 and died at his seat at Horton in 1816.¹² This family owned the manor until 1887, when it passed to Pickering Phipps, esq., J.P., brewer, of Northampton. In 1899 Mr. George H. Winterbottom, of Manchester, purchased the manor and estate and resided at Horton House¹³ until his death in 1935. The property was then sold to Mr. W. Storey, of Portsmouth, who resold most of the estate in small lots.

The church of *ST. MARY THE CHURCH VIRGIN* consists of chancel, 25 ft. by 15 ft., nave, 33 ft. 6 in. by 17 ft. 3 in.; south aisle, 8 ft. 6 in. wide; south porch, and west tower, 10 ft. 3 in. square, all these measurements being internal. The width across nave and aisle is 27 ft. 10 in.

With the exception of the nave arcade, and in a less

¹ Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), cccxliii, 209.

² Recov. R. Mich. 1 Chas. I, rot. 6, 21; Close R. 1 Chas. I, pt. 10, nos. 3, 12.

³ Bridges, i, 368b. He was son of the first Lord Montagu of Boughton.

⁴ G.E.C. *Peerage* (2nd ed.), viii, 365.

⁵ Ibid. 368.

⁶ Rec. R. East. 21 Chas. I, rot. 10.

⁷ Bridges, i, 370. Cf. Rec. R. East. 20 Chas. II, rot. 178; Feet of F. Northants. Trin. 30 Chas. II.

⁸ G.E.C. vi, 246.

⁹ Close R. 12 Geo. II, pt. 4, no. 8.

Cf. Rec. R. Trin. 11 Anne, rot. 195; East. 12 Geo. II, rot. 324.

¹⁰ G.E.C. vi, 246.

¹¹ Ibid. 247.

¹² *Dict. Nat. Biog.; Hist. MSS. Com. Rep.* iii, 248; Rec. R. Hil. 57 Geo. III, rot. 29; Mich. 1 Wm. IV, rot. 415; Burke, *Peerage and Baronetage*, 1931.

¹³ From 1889 to 1899 Horton House was occupied as a preparatory school for boys.

¹⁴ *Hist. of Northants.* i, 369: the chancel

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character: the 18th-century marble font, of good design, is in the churchyard. The pulpit and other fittings are modern.

The monument of Sir William Parr, Lord Parr of Horton (d. 1546), and his wife Mary Salisbury has already been described,¹ but other monuments in the chancel are of scarcely less interest. Of these the earliest are the fine brasses of Roger Salisbury (d. 1492) and his two wives, now on the north wall, but in Bridges' time 'within the altar rails on a large grey marble lying on the ground'.² The figures are 2 ft. 4 in. high and represent 'a man in armour and on each side of him a woman in the habit of the times', below which are the inscription and the indents of the figures of four children.³

The monument to Sir William Lane (d. 1502) is also on the north wall.⁴ It bears the effigies of Sir William and his wife kneeling opposite each other at a desk, with their two sons⁵ and five daughters. Above are eight small shields of arms and the monument is surmounted by a large shield of fourteen quarterings with helm and crest.⁶

There is also a wall monument erected in 1756 by the Earl of Halifax in memory of his brother Edward Montagu and of his sister Henrietta,⁷ together with several brass and other tablets to members of the Gunning family.⁸

There are three bells; the first by Thomas Newcombe of Leicester (c. 1567-8) inscribed '+ Iacobo',

the second inscribed 'Sancta Katerina ora pro nobis,' probably by John Saunders of Reading (1539-59), and the third by James Keene of Woodstock 1641.⁹

The silver plate consists only of a cup and paten of 1862 given, together with a brass flagon and alms dish, by Mrs. Gunning Sutton in memory of Sir Robert Gunning, bart.¹⁰

The registers before 1812 are as follows: (i) all entries 1605-23; (ii) baptisms 1612-1741-2 (Feb.), marriages and burials 1626-1741-2; (iii) baptisms and burials 1743-1812, marriages 1743-54; (iv) marriages 1754-1812.

Early in the 13th century Richard ADVOWSON Gubion granted to the Abbot of St.

James, Northampton, the church of Horton with 'Presteswode' and the croft of 'Byrystede'.¹¹ The advowson of the vicarage was held by this house until the Dissolution¹² and before 1535 the rectory of Piddington had been annexed to it.¹³ In the 13th century the rectory of Horton was valued at 6½ marks, exclusive of a pension of ½ mark paid to the prior of St. Andrew's, and in 1535 it was at farm for 60s.¹⁴ In 1559 Elizabeth granted the rectory and advowson of Horton with Piddington to John Doddington of London and John Jackson,¹⁵ and from them it passed to Sir William Lane who died seised of it in 1616.¹⁶ It was in the gift of the lord of the manor until 1924, when Mr. Winterbottom gave it to the Bishop of Peterborough.

GREAT HOUGHTON

Major, Magna (xiii cent. onwards); Michel (xiv cent.); Moche (xvi cent.). See Little Houghton for variants of 'Houghton'.

The parish of Great Houghton lies west of Little Houghton and like it is bounded on the north by the River Nene, where there is a mill and a lock. Its area is 1,702 acres of land and water, and the soil, subsoil, and crops are the same as those for Little Houghton. A detached part of the parish was transferred to that of Horton in 1884.¹⁷ The height rises abruptly from about 190 ft. by the river to 358 ft. in the south. The village is in the northern part and pleasantly situated on an eminence 260 ft. above the ordnance datum, with its church to the north-west. There were about 40 families in the village in 1720.¹⁸ The population of the parish in 1931 was 250. Within the last eighty years about 40 old thatched cottages have been pulled down and some 20 new ones built.¹⁹ Great Houghton Hall, a large three-story square stuccoed building of brick and stone, stands near the entrance immediately north

of the church: there is no record of its erection, but it is apparently of early-19th-century date.²⁰

The parish was inclosed under agreement in 1612;²¹ but this was apparently the inclosure for which Thomas, Lord Brudenell, was fined £1,000 and ordered to restore 8 farms by Archbishop Laud (i.e. in 1633 or later), being accused by the archbishop of 'devouring the people with a shepherd and a dog'. Brudenell asserted that it was a 'most benign and charitable inclosure' such as England could not produce a second, and that he had not 'decayed' a single house.²² Daniel Ward of Little Houghton (q.v.), who bought Mordaunt's manor here, received in 1618 licence to inclose 132 acres in the two places.

The wake was the Sunday before Michaelmas.²³

The lands of Great Houghton belonged *MANORS* in 1086 to two fees, the fee of Peverel and the honor of Huntingdon. Osmund was the pre-Conquest tenant of 1 hide, ½ virgate, and 2 carucates, held in 1086 by William Peverel who had

¹ *V.C.H. Northants.* i, 416, where it is figured. See also Bridges, op. cit. i, 370. The monument stands on the floor of the chancel, a little to the north. At the top the tomb measures 6 ft. 6 in. by 3 ft. 6 in.

² Op. cit. i, 369.

³ Hudson, *Mont. Brasses of Northants.*, where the brasses are figured and described. The date, however, is wrongly given as 1481. The man is bareheaded and with clubbed hair, in ornamented plate armour, his feet upon a dog. The two female figures are almost identical. Each wears a mitred head-dress, a tight-sleeved and tight-bodied gown, with a full and ample dress deeply trimmed with fur.

⁴ In Bridges' time it was on the south wall.

⁵ One of them holds a skull.

⁶ The inscription is given in Bridges, op. cit. i, 370.

⁷ The inscription reads 'Edw. Montagu G. Comitiss de Halifax fratri unico et Arabellae Trevor conjugibus ex antiquis comitibus de Sarisb. & Heref. oriundis optimis parentibus: et Henriettae sorori dilectissimae Georgius Montagu p. anno MDCCCLVI'.

⁸ Sir Robert Gunning, bart. 1816, Sir George Gunning, bart. 1823, Sir Robert Henry Gunning, bart. 1862, the Rev. Sir Henry John Gunning, bart. 1885, Sir George William Gunning, bart. 1903, and others.

⁹ North, *Ch. Bells of Northants.* 309.

¹⁰ Markham, *Ch. Plate of Northants.* 161.

¹¹ Harl. Chart. 50 H. 11; *Rot. Hug. de Welles* (Cant. and York Soc.), iii, 93; *Cal. Pat.* 1313-17, p. 524.

¹² Bridges, i, 369; *Rot. Rob. Grosseteste* (Cant. and York Soc.), 245.

¹³ *Valor Eccles.* iv, 328.

¹⁴ Ibid. 319; Bridges, i, 369.

¹⁵ Pat. R. 2 Eliz. pt. 15, m. 35.

¹⁶ Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), cccclxiii, 209.

¹⁷ Kelly, *Dir.* (1931); Local Govt. Board Order 14,660.

¹⁸ Bridges, *Hist. of Northants.* i, 370.

¹⁹ Local information.

²⁰ *Northants. N. & Q.* n.s. v, 28, where a drawing of the north front, by G. Clark, is reproduced.

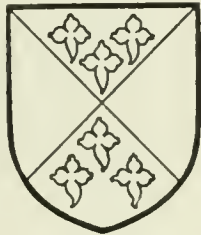
²¹ Bridges, loc. cit.

²² *Cal. S.P. Dom.* 1635-6, p. 399.

²³ Bridges, op. cit. 373.

enfeoffed Robert (de Pavely).¹ As *PAVELY'S* and later *TRESHAM'S MANOR* these lands were held as one knight's fee of the honor of Peverel, an overlordship mentioned until 1547.²

Robert de Pavely, the Domesday tenant, gave to Lenton Priory at its foundation two-thirds of the tithes of his demesnes here.³ A later Robert died in 1194, leaving a son and daughters under age.⁴ This son was presumably Geoffrey, who succeeded in 1198⁵ and was tenant of this knight's fee in 1212.⁶ The manor then descended with the Pavely manor of Paulerspury (q.v.) until 1428,⁷ when Sir Oliver St. John and Thomas Mortimer held the Pavely lands in Paulerspury and Great Houghton, Mortimer presumably having Great Houghton, as St. John had Paulerspury. Moreover, in 1413 Drew Barantyn, citizen and goldsmith of London, and Margaret his wife made a fine of the manor with Hugh Mortimer.⁸ In 1436 Robert Andrews made a fine of a manor of Great Houghton.⁹ In 1448 Henry VI granted to his esquire William Tresham the services of certain tenants here.¹⁰ On the attainder of Sir Thomas Tresham as a Lancastrian in 1460, this manor was forfeit and granted in 1462 with Rushton to John Downe,¹¹ and in 1465 he was also given the reversion of the site of the manor, 5 virgates of land, and 20 acres of meadow, on the death of Isabel wife of Sir William Pecche, who held it in dower.¹²



TRESHAM. Party saltire-wise sable and or with six trefoils or.

When Isabel Pecche died, however, it was granted in 1480 to her then husband Edward Brampton.¹³ John son of Thomas Tresham recovered it shortly after the accession of Henry VII,¹⁴ and alienated it with lands in the towns of Northampton and Abington, parcel of the manor, to the yeoman family of Robins. William Robins died seised leaving a son John,¹⁵ who died seised in 1541 of this manor, out of which he paid a rent to Sir Thomas Tresham.¹⁶ The king granted the custody of his son and heir George and the manor to Alexander Belcher, in 1544.¹⁷ George Robins was sued by Thomas Tresham of Rushton, who pleaded an entail that made the grant to the Robins void.¹⁸ In 1572 George Robins conveyed the manor to William Belcher;¹⁹ but in 1584 Sir Thomas Tresham made a settlement.²⁰ In 1601 his son Francis (soon afterwards implicated in the Gunpowder Plot) advised him to raise money from the manor towards a heavy debt,²¹ and he seems to

have done so in 1605.²² James Smith, yeoman, died seised of Tresham's Manor in 1635, leaving a son and heir James.²³ Edward brother of Alexander Smith of Great Houghton obtained the removal of a sequestration order on his royalist brother's estate in 1645.²⁴ William Ward of Little Houghton held Tresham's Manor in 1696²⁵ and in about 1720.²⁶ William and Thomas Ward conveyed it to Robert Meese in 1728.²⁷ In 1788 John Blake and Elborough Woodcock conveyed one of the Great Houghton manors, not specified, to the Hon. Edward Bouverie and Edward Bouverie jun.²⁸ of Delapré Abbey from whom it has descended²⁹ to Miss Mary Helen Bouverie, the present owner.

Robert de Pavely had amends of the assize of bread and ale and view of frankpledge in 1276.³⁰ On the site in 1346 there were 2 dove-cotes, a water-mill (called Clak), a windmill (called Twygrist), a mill in Abington, and a fishery in the Nene,³¹ and a court.³² Abington mill still belonged to the manor in 1526.³³ Robert de Pavely granted the tithe of Twygrist to St. James, Northampton.³⁴

In the Northamptonshire Survey Simon is entered as holding 1 hide 1 virgate in Great Houghton.³⁵ This cannot be identified in the Domesday entries, but was probably part of the Countess Judith's estates, as the overlordship of the manor, which was later divided into Green's and Houghton's manor, descended with the honor of Huntingdon.³⁶

Henry de Audley was mesne lord in 1241,³⁷ and James de Audley six years later.³⁸ This mesne tenancy is no more mentioned, though the occurrence of Nicholas de Audley, parson of the church in 1265,³⁹ suggests a continuance of the family interest.

William son of Simon, who was impleaded in 1200 by Elias son of Oger [de Lisurs] for ½ virgate in Houghton,⁴⁰ was probably son of the 12th-century tenant and identical with William de Houghton, who married Isabel the elder daughter of Robert Daubeney;⁴¹ he presented to the church in 1230 and 1234,⁴² dying shortly afterwards.⁴³ His son William claimed the advowson of the church and 2 carucates of land here in 1247.⁴⁴ He took the name Daubeney and did homage in 1263, after his mother's death, for all the lands she held in chief.⁴⁵ Two years later Henry de Hastings held the manor as guardian of William's son and heir⁴⁶ Simon. Simon Daubeney died in 1272 when his heirs were Isabel or Elizabeth, Christine, and Joan, his sisters,⁴⁷ or daughters.⁴⁸ Isabel married Hugh de St. Croix, tenant of this ½ knight's fee in 1284.⁴⁹ Joan, wife of

¹ *V.C.H. Northants.* i, 339a, and cf. *ibid.* 375b and note.

² *Cal. Pat. Edw. VI*, v, 314. See Ct. R. Gen. Ser. portf. 195, no. 67.

³ Dugdale, *Mon.* v, 111b.

⁴ *Pipe R.* 7 Ric. I (Pipe R. Soc.), 33; 8 Ric. I, 190.

⁵ *Pipe R.* 10 Ric. I, 107.

⁶ *Red Bk. of Exch.* (Rolls Ser.), 585.

⁷ *Bk. of Fees*, 494, 944, 1401; *Feud. Aids*, iv, 6, 26, 43.

⁸ Feet of F. Northants. 1 Hen. V, no. 2.

⁹ *Ibid.* 14 Hen. VI, no. 79.

¹⁰ *Cal. Pat.* 1446-52, p. 162.

¹¹ *Ibid.* 1461-7, p. 111.

¹² *Ibid.* p. 431.

¹³ *Ibid.* 1476-85, pp. 194, 416.

¹⁴ *Chan. Proc.* (Ser. 2), bde. 175, no. 11.

¹⁵ *Exch. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), dxc, 4; *Cal. Pat. Edw. VI*, v, 314.

¹⁶ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), lvi, 43; *ibid.* lxxv, 37.

¹⁷ *L. and P. Hen. VIII*, xix (1), g. 1035 (35).

¹⁸ *Chan. Proc.* loc. cit.

¹⁹ Feet of F. Northants. 111. 14 Eliz.

²⁰ *Ibid.* 111. 26 Eliz.

²¹ *Hist. MSS. Com. Rep.* iii, 112.

²² Feet of F. Northants. 111. 2 Jas. I.

²³ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), dxxviii, 142.

²⁴ *Cal. Com. for Comp.* 897.

²⁵ Feet of F. Northants. Trin. 8 Will. III.

²⁶ Bridges, op. cit. 371.

²⁷ Feet of F. Northants. Mich. 2 Geo. II.

²⁸ *Com. Pleas*, D. Entr. Mich. 29 Geo. III, m. 38; *Recov. R. Mich.* 29 Geo. III, rot. 137.

²⁹ *Recov. R. Trin.* 51 Geo. III, rot. 279.

³⁰ *Hund. R.* (Rec. Com.), ii, 8.

³¹ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* viii, 666. Three of the manors had a corridor to the Nene.

³² *Ibid.*; *ibid.* ix, 219, p. 209.

³³ See below.

³⁴ *Cal. Pat.* 1381-5, p. 187.

³⁵ *V.C.H. Northants.* i, 375b.

³⁶ *Feud. Aids*, iv, 6, 26, 42.

³⁷ *Cal. Close*, 1237-42, p. 369.

³⁸ *Assize R.* 614, m. 25.

³⁹ *Hunter, Rot. Select.* 145.

⁴⁰ *Curia Regis R.* i, 154.

⁴¹ *V.C.H. Beds.* ii, 321.

⁴² *Rot. Hug. de Welles* (Cant. & York Soc.), 162, 178, 269.

⁴³ *Exc. e Rot. Fin.* 277; *Cal. Close*, 1234-7, p. 91.

⁴⁴ *Assize R.* 614, m. 25.

⁴⁵ *Exc. e Rot. Fin.* (Rec. Com.), ii, 390; *Cal. Inq. p.m.* i, 546.

⁴⁶ *Cal. Inq. Misc.* i, 256.

⁴⁷ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* ii, 11; *Fine R.* i, 10, 20, 70.

⁴⁸ *Cal. Close*, 1272-9, p. 27; *De Banco R.* 283, m. 81.

⁴⁹ *Feud. Aids*, iv, 6.

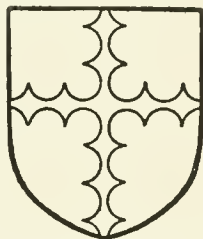
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Hugh de Lacy in 1272, had married Roger Dakeney by 1286, when Christine, then wife of Peter de la Stane, Hugh de St. Croix and Isabel granted him $\frac{1}{2}$ virgate here, one-third of the advowson and one-third of the tenements that Robert de Noers had held.¹ His grandson Roger apparently enfeoffed Richard de Houghton of his share,² which descended as Houghton's Manor.³

GREEN'S alias VAUX and MORDAUNT'S MANOR. Christine had children by Peter de la Stane; but in 1312 she had the manor (these thirds appear later as *maneretta*) settled on herself and her then husband John de Gaddesden⁴ for life with remainder to Edith their daughter.⁵ John de Gaddesden, returned as lord of the whole in 1316⁶ and 1325,⁷ died seised in 1338-9. Edith had died childless and Christine had been dead 20 years. Her lawful children (by Peter de la Stane) were Elizabeth, Margery, and Christine, and the heirs in 1338-9 were Sir Thomas de Norton, son of Elizabeth, Brian Saffrey or Savory, son of Margery, and John Biddick⁸ son of Christine, who had married Anthony Biddick and died in 1326.⁹

Brian Saffrey did homage for his pourparty in 1339,¹⁰ i.e. $\frac{1}{3}$ of $\frac{1}{3}$ of this $\frac{1}{2}$ knight's fee or $\frac{1}{9}$ of the *manerettum*, of little value, owing to floods and the Black Death, when he died in 1349 leaving a daughter Alice aged 2.¹¹ Alice died next year, her uncle and heir Thomas¹² in 1361, and his sister and heir Joan Saffrey then had livery of $\frac{1}{4}$ rent here and the ninth turn to present to the church.¹³ This may be the share conveyed by John son of Richard to Henry Green (of Drayton) two years later.¹⁴

John Biddick leased his 'third' (i.e. 9th) to Thomas de Stretton, and in 1344-5 conveyed the reversion to Henry Green, reserving $\frac{1}{5}$ of the advowson.¹⁵ Shortly afterwards John Bifle died seised of tenements;¹⁶ and Thomas Bifle died seised of $1\frac{3}{4}$ virgates as $\frac{1}{20}$ of a knight's fee in 1360, when John de Stretton was his kinsman and heir.¹⁷ Whether this property had any connexion with Henry Green's share is not clear. Sir Thomas de Norton died seised of $\frac{1}{5}$ of the manor in 1347 leaving a son and heir Ralph aged 11,¹⁸ and the king presented to the church in 1349 as his guardian.¹⁹ Ralph entailed his 'third' in 1359,²⁰ but leased it for life to



GREEN, of Drayton.
*Argent a cross engrailed
gules.*

Peter Neubolde, clerk, and in 1367 alienated the reversion of it (1 carucate, 2 virgates of land, two parts of the advowson, and other tenements) to Sir Henry Green²¹ of Drayton, who died in 1369. He settled his ninth of the manor on his younger son Henry;²² but it reverted to the elder son Thomas, whose son and heir Thomas had livery in 1391 of $\frac{1}{3}$ and $\frac{1}{3}$ of the manor and the advowson.²³ This estate now descended as a 'manor' or 'third' or tenements, together with part of the advowson, with the Greens' manor of Lowick (q.v.) until the 16th century, when it was again divided among many heirs. Like Lowick it came to the Huddlestons, Mordaunts, and Browns,²⁴ and like Irlingborough (q.v.) the Huddleston share descended to the Vaux family. Thomas,²⁵ 1st Lord Vaux of Harrowden, made a settlement of both manor and advowson in 1530.²⁶ The Vaux family continued in possession of this part until 1612,²⁷ when for assurance of title Edward Vaux, Lord Harrowden, obtained a Crown grant;²⁸ but by 1614 the manor of Vaux had become absorbed into Tresham's Manor.²⁹

In the preceding century George Browne settled various estates on his wife Elizabeth including one third of this manor, and about 1558 she, as widow of Sir Henry Hublethorne, with her son-in-law William Price, brought a suit against her stepson Wistan Browne.³⁰ The Prices and their kinsfolk, the Flamstedes and Lawes,³¹ were subsequently concerned with both manor and advowson;³² and in 1590 John Flamstede conveyed two thirds of the manor to Lord Mordaunt,³³ with various remainders. In 1601 Sir Thomas Tresham and his sons conveyed this to Daniel Ward³⁴ of Little Houghton, who joined in a settlement of the manors of Mordaunt and Parke in 1612,³⁵ but in 1623 conveyed Mordaunt's Manor to Henry, Lord Danvers of Dauntsey.³⁶

The Irish family of Scudamore seem to have been connected with this county through the marriage of James Scudamore (ob. 1619) with Anne Throckmorton,³⁷ and in 1656 a James Scudamore conveyed ' $\frac{1}{3}$ of the manor of Houghton Magna, *alias* Mordaunt's manor', to John Thornicroft and John Cartwright,³⁸ to whom Katharine Gargrave widow (daughter of John Danvers, created a baronet 1661³⁹) made the same grant in 1660.⁴⁰ Her daughter and co-heir Elizabeth with her husband Sir Thomas Derham, bart., Sir Edward Baynton, John Osborne and Eleanor his wife, both of them Danvers descendants,⁴¹ Richard Walmsley, and Thomas Colt made a settlement of the manor in 1664,⁴² as did Richard

¹ Harl. Chart. 56 E 9.

² De Banco East. 22 Ric. II, m. 208 d. The suit, by which Richard de Houghton recovered against Thomas Green the next presentation to the living, was probably fictitious, as the pedigree produced in support certainly was.

³ See below.

⁴ In 1318, on Christine's death, it was found that John de Gaddesden had never married her and that Edith their daughter was illegitimate: *Cal. Inq. p.m.* vi, 163.

⁵ Feet of F. Northants. 5 Edw. II, no. 108.

⁶ *Feud. Aids*, iv, 26.

⁷ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* vi, 612, p. 391.

⁸ *Ibid.* viii, 192; *V.C.H. Beds*, ii, 321.

⁹ *Ibid.*

¹⁰ *Abbrev. Rot. Orig.* (Rec. Com.), ii, 130.

¹¹ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* ix, 282.

¹² *Ibid.* 574.

¹³ *Ibid.* xi, 200; *Abbrev. Rot. Orig.* (Rec. Com.), ii, 269.

¹⁴ Feet of F. Northants. case 178, file 82, no. 541.

¹⁵ Feet of F. Northants. case 177, file 77, no. 285. The Chetwynds (of Stretton, Staffordshire) had land here in 1340: *Cal. Close*, 1339-41, p. 441.

¹⁶ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* ix, 266.

¹⁷ *Ibid.* x, 556.

¹⁸ *Ibid.* viii, 638.

¹⁹ *Cal. Pat.* 1348-50, p. 362.

²⁰ Feet of F. Div. Co. Hil. 33 Edw. III, no. 50; *ibid.* East. 33 Edw. III, no. 53.

²¹ *Ibid.* Northants. Mich. 41 Edw. III, no. 590.

²² *Cal. Close*, 1369-74, p. 48.

²³ *Ibid.* 1389-92, p. 392; *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 15 Ric. II, pt. 1, no. 24.

²⁴ *Cal. Close Hen. V*, i, 496; Feet of F. Div. Co. Hil. 3 Hen. VIII; *ibid.* Northants. Hil. and Mich. 27 Hen. VIII, Hil. 31 Hen. VIII, Mich. 1 & 2 Eliz.

²⁵ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), xli, 60.

²⁶ *Recov. R. Trin.* 22 Hen. VIII, rot. 419.

²⁷ Feet of F. Northants. Mich. 1 & 2

Eliz.; *ibid.* East. 4 Eliz.; *ibid.* Div. Co. Trin. 27 Eliz.

²⁸ *Pat. R.* 10 Jas. I, pt. 15. Cf. Irlingborough.

²⁹ Feet of F. Northants. Hil. 11 Jas. I.

³⁰ *Chan. Proc.* (Ser. 2), bdle. 82, no. 15. Cf. *V.C.H. Bucks*, iv, 490.

³¹ See Oundle: *V.C.H. Northants*, iii, 94.

³² Feet of F. Div. Co. Hil. 2 & 3 Ph. and M.; Trin. 27 Eliz.; *ibid.* Northants. Mich. 18 & 19 Eliz.

³³ Feet of F. Northants. Hil. 32 Eliz.

³⁴ *Ibid.* Trin. 43 Eliz.

³⁵ *Ibid.* Trin. 10 Jas. I.

³⁶ *Ibid.* Mich. 21 Jas. I.

³⁷ *G.E.C. Complete Baronetage*, i, 146.

³⁸ Feet of F. Northants. East. 1656.

³⁹ *G.E.C. op. cit.* iii, 206.

⁴⁰ Feet of F. Northants. Trin. 12 Chas. II.

⁴¹ *G.E.C. op. cit.* iii, 243.

⁴² Feet of F. Div. Co. Trin. 16 Chas. II.

Derham and Charles Danvers in 1676;¹ and two years later Sir John Osborn, bart., and Sir Edward Baynton conveyed the manor to Sir William Temple, bart., and John Temple, kt.² Henry Temple of Sheen, Surrey, was lord in 1714,³ which is the last mention found.

HOUGHTON'S alias PARKE'S alias ATTERBURY'S MANOR. Roger Dakeney, as already mentioned, granted his share of the Daubeney inheritance to Richard de Houghton.⁴ The manor passed later to the Parkes, apparently through an heiress. William Parke received some tenements here in 1407 by a Crown grant for life,⁵ renewed to his son John in 1440,⁶ and in 1428 was one of the joint tenants of the Daubeney manor.⁷ His grandson Lewis, in a plea concerning land here, mentioned William's wife Margaret as though she was an heiress.⁸ The Crown had resumed by 1592 the tenements granted by Henry VI to John Parke,⁹ but Houghton's Manor descended to Isabel daughter and heir of Lewis. She married Lewis son of John Atterbury,¹⁰ and Lewis Atterbury, presumably their son, made a settlement of Parke's Manor in 1612,¹¹ and died seised in the capital messuage in 1631. His son and heir Stephen¹² in 1637 or 1638 sued his stepmother for the manor, capital messuage, dovecote, closes of about 133 acres called upper, middle, and nether, or little burrough, ground on the west of the town and closes called Safridge, Hawney, and Hardney, of which she had taken unlawful possession.¹³ His wife Frances is mentioned, and it is probably their son Francis Atterbury, clerk, who, with his son and heir Lewis, made a settlement of 'two parts of the manor of Great Houghton alias Parke's manor' in 1655.¹⁴ Lewis Atterbury, clerk, was concerned with Abraham Bowcher and Barbara his wife with a ninth part in 1657,¹⁵ and in 1658 and 1660 with Gifford, Samuell, Tompkins, Battison, Plowman, Chalcombe, Day, and Roberts,¹⁶ whereby all the nine parts were reunited in his possession. Lewis Atterbury, M.D., who made a settlement in 1695¹⁷ would be the Dr. Lewis Atterbury of Highgate who was lord when Bridges made his visit.¹⁸ In 1738 Osborn Atterbury conveyed it to William Lock.¹⁹ It has been no further traced.

Winemar held of the Countess Judith in 1086 1 virgate in Houghton of the soc of Yardley.²⁰ This may be represented by the 4 small virgates held in the 12th century by King David, though these are said to have been held by one Osebert.²¹ Three virgates here, which Oger de Lisurs recovered in 1199 against Ilbert de Pavely,²² were held in 1274 by Adam de Lisurs of Gilbert de Preston,²³ the representative of Winemar. As late as 1350 certain tenements and rent in Great Houghton were held by the Pavelys of 'the fee of

Lysours' of the heirs of John Halewyk.²⁴ The lands of the Prestons in this parish were attached to their manor of Preston Deanery (q.v.) and descended with it, being granted by Wynmer de Preston in 1429 to John Hartwell.²⁵

The church of **THE ASSUMPTION, CHURCH** which was described by Bridges as consisting of chancel, body, and two aisles, with an embattled tower 'in the midst',²⁶ was found to be 'greatly decayed' in 1753,²⁷ and in the following year was taken down and rebuilt in 'a plain, decent, and commodious manner, without unnecessary ornament'. The new church consisted of a nave measuring internally 45 ft. 6 in. by 25 ft. 6 in., with a recess 6 ft. deep and 12 ft. 6 in. wide for the communion table at the east end, and a west tower 9 ft. 6 in. square surmounted by a spire, and was in a very plain classic style, with a three-light east window of 'Venetian' type, and two round-headed windows and a doorway on each side of the nave. It has since been altered and its character in some measure changed, but the present fabric is in the main that of 1754. No part of the old church has survived, unless it be the vice, or newel staircase leading to the first floor of the tower. In 1875 a porch was added on the south side, the windows and south doorway refashioned, and a new window substituted for the north doorway. All this new work is in the 'Romanesque' style, the windows being of two round-headed lights under a semicircular arch with shafted jambs. A north-west gallery was taken down and the church reseated. There were further internal alterations in 1910-11, when the sanctuary was carried westward, its floor paved with marble, an oak altar erected, the walls panelled to a height of 7 ft., and the side lights of the east window blocked.

The nave is faced with ironstone ashlar, and has a square plinth, flat strings at sill level and at the spring of the window arches, and boldly dentilled cornice. There is a pediment at the east end and on the north and south aisles of the nave over the original doorways, where the wall is slightly advanced. The roof is slated. The eastern recess, which projects externally 7 ft. 6 in., is separately roofed. Internally the walls are plastered, and there is a flat plaster ceiling with cornice, and plain round arch to the sanctuary recess.

The square lower stage of the tower is ironstone, and of the same character as the nave, with plinth, strings, and cornice, but it retains its original tall round-headed west window. The second stage is also square but of limestone, with a circular opening on three sides,²⁸ sunk panels at the angles, and cornice. Above this is a lighter octagonal stage surmounted by Tuscan columns sup-

¹ Ibid. Northants. East. 28 Chas. II.

² Ibid. Hil. 29 & 30 Chas. II.

³ Recov. R. Hil. 1 Geo. I, rot. 128; Bridges, op. cit. 371.

⁴ See above.

⁵ Cal. Pat. 1405-8, p. 392. This messuage and virgate was in the hands of the Crown in 1381 through the felony of John de Pydyngton: Cal. Pat. 1377-81, p. 607.

⁶ Cal. Pat. 1436-41, p. 467.

⁷ Feud. Aids. iv, 42. Bridges (op. cit. 371) quotes a plea of 1415 where Thomas Clarell claimed one of these manors through four predecessors.

⁸ Early Chan. Proc. file 1044, nos. 1, 2.

⁹ Pat. 35 Eliz. pt. 6, m. 12.

¹⁰ Chan. Proc. (Ser. 2), bdle. 231, no. 23.

¹¹ Feet of F. Northants. Trin. 10 Jas. I.

¹² Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), ccclxxvi,

101.

¹³ Chan. Proc. (Ser. 2), bdle. 394, no.

56.

¹⁴ Feet of F. Northants. East. 1655.

¹⁵ Ibid. Mich. 1657.

¹⁶ Ibid. East. 1658, Trin. 1658, Trin.

12 Chas. II.

¹⁷ Recov. R. Trin. 7 Will. III, rot.

74.

¹⁸ Op. cit. 371.

¹⁹ Feet of F. Northants. Trin. 11 &

12 Geo. II.

²⁰ I.C.H. Northants. i, 354b.

²¹ Ibid. 375b.

²² Curia Regis R. i, 13.

²³ Cal. Inq. p.m. ii, 69.

²⁴ Ibid. ix, 215.

²⁵ Cal. Close, 1429-35, p. 29.

²⁶ Hist. of Northants. i, 372. There was a chantry chapel on the south side of the tower, and the north aisle extended almost the whole length of the chancel. The length of the chancel was 33 ft. 8 in., of the nave 53 ft., and the width across nave and aisles was 48 ft. 3 in. The tower was 18 ft. 4 in. by 13 ft. 9 in.

²⁷ Advertisement in the *North Mercury*, 17 Sept. 1753, which announces that it is intended to pull down and rebuild the church, 'the steeple whereof is already taken down'. An advertisement on 5 Aug. 1754, announces that the church is to be rebuilt and the old materials sold. There is no trace of the church having been reconsecrated: *ex inf.* the rector.

²⁸ There are clock dials in those facing north and south.

A HISTORY OF NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

porting a cornice, from which incurved buttresses rise to the base of the spire. The appearance of the spire has been spoilt by the removal of the vases from the top of the buttresses,¹ but the steeple as a whole is of pleasing design, the plainly treated square lower stages contrasting well with the lighter construction above. On each side of the octagon is a round-headed opening, and the spire has a good iron vane.

The font and pulpit are modern and in the Gothic style.

There are wall tablets in the nave to Francis Brownsmith (d. 1778), Theophilus Goodfellow, rector (d. 1782), and others of later date.

There are six bells, four new small ones by Taylor & Co., of Loughborough, having been added in 1935 to the two bells then in the tower. Of these the second is by Robt. Taylor & Son, St. Neot's, 1817.²

The plate consists of a silver-gilt cup of 1553, a cover paten of 1606, and a paten of 1740 made by Robert Abercromby. There is also a plated flagon of modern medieval design given in 1871.³

The registers before 1812 are as follows: (i) all entries 1558-1678; (ii) August 1678-December 1706; (iii) baptisms and burials January 1706/7-93, marriages to 1753; (iv) baptisms 1794-1812; (v) marriages 1754-1812; (vi) burials 1794-1812.

Facing the church on the other side of the road is a memorial cross to fourteen men of the parish who fell in the war of 1914-18.

From the time when William de *ADVOUSON* Houghton presented, as husband of Isabel Daubeney, the advowson descended with the Huntingdon manor and was shared by the three co-heirs of Simon Daubeney in 1272. Elizabeth the eldest presented William de Houghton, in the time of Edward II. On his death (by 1309), Christine presented Brian de Pampworth.⁴ From Joan the right descended to her son Robert Dakeney and from Robert to his son Roger, who in 1330 granted his

right to John Kynebelle of Filgrave.⁵ In 1363-4 John son of Richard (? Houghton) granted the next presentation (on the death of Peter Newbold, clerk, who presented 1363⁶) to Henry Green.⁷ Richard Houghton, however, presented in 1367,⁸ and he or a namesake recovered the next presentation against Thomas Green in 1399 on a claim that he had been enfeoffed by Roger Dakeney.⁹ Sir Thomas Green conveyed land and the advowson in 1435 to John Throckmorton;¹⁰ although it was settled on Sir Nicholas Vaux on his marriage with Ann daughter of Sir Thomas Green,¹¹ the advowson apparently descended in the Throckmorton family until 1562.¹² Sir Robert Throckmorton sold the advowson in 1562 to Thomas Nichols.¹³ It was settled for life on William his father, who was still living when Thomas died ten years later. Sir Thomas Tresham was concerned with the advowson in 1576,¹⁴ and it was attached to the manor of Tresham and Vaux in 1614, as in 1629, when William Baude conveyed it to Sir William Wilmer.¹⁵ John Ward and George Daunce presented in 1631.¹⁶ William Wilmer and Francis Wickes conveyed it to Dabridgecourt Ward in 1654;¹⁷ but Sir William Wilmer, bart., presented in 1680,¹⁸ and Francis Arundel in 1706.¹⁹ The last named was patron about 1720.²⁰ During the next sixty years members of the families of Warner, Goodfellow, and Rogers presented,²¹ as did Thomas Wilkinson, clerk, in 1804 and 1805,²² which seems to be the year in which it was transferred to Magdalen College, Oxford,²³ the present patrons.

Margaret Goodfellow by will dated *CHARITY* 18 October 1785 bequeathed sufficient stock to produce an annual income of £5, to be applied by the minister and churchwardens for the benefit of the poor. The endowment now consists of £115 2½% Consols held by the Official Trustees, producing £2 17s. 4d. annually in dividends which are distributed by the rector and 2 trustees appointed by the parish council.

LITTLE HOUGHTON

Hohtone (xi-xiv cent.); Hocthone, Houthun (xii cent.); Hocune (xii-xiii cent.); Houton (xii-xvi cent.); Houghtone (xiv cent.). Parva (1220 onwards); Minor (xiii cent.).

To the parish of Little Houghton, which comprises 1,730 acres land and water, was added by Local Government Board Order of 25 March 1884 a detached part of Brafield-on-the-Green called Brafield Holme.²⁴ Little Houghton lies between Brafield to the east, and

Great Houghton to the west, all three parishes being narrow strips with the Nene for their northern boundary. There were 40 families in about 1720;²⁵ in 1921 the population of the civil parish was 422, in 1931, 415. The soil, subsoil, and crops are the same as for Brafield, with some pasture land. On the south bank at a bifurcation of the river, and perhaps guarding the ancient ford here, stands at a height of about 265 ft. the circular moated earthwork of Clifford Hill. Roman

¹ They were removed because their weight endangered the tower. They are shown in a drawing of c. 1810: Add. MS. 32119, fol. 62.

² North, *Ch. Bells of Northants.* 309. The inscription on the first has been effaced. In 1552 there were three great bells and one sanctus bell. Bridges noted five bells in the old church: op. cit. i, 372. The old bells were re-tuned, and four new ones given, by Mr. J. J. Martin, J.P., and the rector, the Rev. G. H. Haines, to commemorate the Silver Jubilee of King George V. They are chimed by a clavier.

³ Markham, *Ch. Plate of Northants.* 162, where the cup is figured.

⁴ *Cal. Pat.* 1307-13, p. 324. He may have been a kinsman of Brian Saffrey: *Cal. Pat.* 1330-4, p. 314.

⁵ De Banco R. 283, m. 81.

⁶ Bridges, op. cit. 372.

⁷ Feet of F. Northants. case 178, file 82, no. 541.

⁸ Bridges, op. cit. 372.

⁹ De Banco R. East. 23 Ric. II, m. 208 d.

¹⁰ Feet of F. Northants. case 178, file 94, no. 75.

¹¹ Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), xli, 60.

¹² Bridges, op. cit. 372; Star Cha. Proc. Hen. VIII, bde. 29, no. 180. Sir Richard Knightley of Fawsley, whose mother, Eleanor Throckmorton, had owned the advowson, claimed it unsuccessfully against the Greens and Throckmortons in 1502: Early Chan. Proc. bde. 265, no. 29. The advowson seems to have been conveyed to John Warner, the incumbent,

in 1540 by George Throckmorton, who subsequently had a lease of the rectory: Early Chan. Proc. file 1073, nos. 23-5; Bridges, loc. cit.

¹³ Feet of F. Northants. Trin. 4 Eliz.; Recov. R. Mich. 1561, rot. 708.

¹⁴ Feet of F. Northants. Mich. 18 & 19 Eliz.

¹⁵ Recov. R. Mich. 5 Chas. I, rot. 3.

¹⁶ Inst. Bks. (P.R.O.).

¹⁷ Feet of F. Northants. Trin. 1654; Recov. R. Trin. 1654, rot. 37.

¹⁸ Inst. Bks. (P.R.O.).

¹⁹ Ibid.

²⁰ Bridges, loc. cit.

²¹ Inst. Bks. (P.R.O.).

²² *Clergy List*, 1881.

²³ Kelly, *Northants.* (1931).

²⁵ Bridges, op. cit. i, 373.

coins have been found, but the 'hill' has no Roman characteristics.¹ Already in the early 14th century it was called Clifford Hill.² The top is said to have been pared off in the 17th century by a lord of the manor who wanted a bowling-green.³ Close by is Clifford Mill on the Nene, now disused.

The village, with the church at its centre, is grouped round the point where the Northampton-Bedford road is met by that leading to Cogenhoe and Billing. Most of the houses are of the local brown ironstone and are not of great antiquity, the oldest of which the age is known being a cottage adjoining the grounds of Little Houghton House, which bears the almost obliterated date 1616.⁴ The proof of age of John Pavely shows that the village was almost completely destroyed by fire in 1333.⁵ In that year the church was polluted, and the Bishop of Lincoln, who came to reconcile it, dined with the lord of Great Houghton manor and confirmed his infant heir.⁶ Opposite the church are the stocks, dating in their present form from 1835, and adjoining the churchyard is the school. A school was founded under the will of William Ward in 1673 for 8 boys of this parish and 4 from Great Houghton.⁷

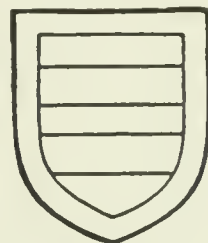
Daniel Ward received licence in 1618 to inclose 132 acres in Great and Little Houghton,⁸ and 2,500 acres here and in Brafield and Cogenhoe were inclosed in 1827.⁹

Ulf son of Azor held 1½ virgates in **MANORS [LITTLE] HOUGHTON** before the Conquest, with sac and soke. After 1066 this was given to Odo, Bishop of Bayeux, and after his forfeiture claimed by the Countess Judith, who also had 1 virgate of land and 5 acres of meadow held by Winemar of the soke of Yardley Hastings.¹⁰ These lands descended as 1 knight's fee held of the honor of Huntingdon, together with another knight's fee in Brafield-on-the-Green, being still held of the manor of Earls Barton in the 16th century.¹¹

One William held 3 virgates in Brafield and 1½ here in 1086, but there is nothing to connect him with William de Houghton who in the 12th century held 3½ hides in the two places.¹² William de Houghton held lands in other counties and was chamberlain of Henry I.¹³ In 1130 he paid £200 in Northamptonshire and Leicestershire for the widow and land of Edward of Salisbury, to the use of his son Payn¹⁴ de Houghton, 'le chamberlayne',¹⁵ who also made a payment.¹⁶ Payn presented to the church¹⁷ and was probably dead by 1155. By his wife Adeliz de Raimes he had a daughter Maud de Houghton, called his heir.¹⁸

He had another daughter Emma,¹⁹ not called his heir; and though she shared his inheritance she and her descendants held of Maud and her heirs.

HOUGHTON GRIMBALD.²⁰ Maud married Robert Grimbald, and he (or his father) was called Grimbald de Houghton in about 1155. Robert, like his father, was sewer of the Earl of Northampton and sheriff before 1155. He, with the consent of Maud, gave to St. Andrew's, Northampton, a moiety of the church of Little Houghton before 1168, the probable date of his death being about 1161.²¹ Maud, with the consent of her son²² and heir Simon, confirmed the gift to the priory.²³ By 1176 she had married her second husband Richard del Peak who then joined her in granting to St. Mary 'de Voto' near Cherbourg all their land at Arville at a rent payable at Houghton.²⁴ Simon de Houghton and William Grimbald, the son of her first husband²⁵ and afterwards called by Maud her heir,²⁶ were witnesses. By her second husband (who died in 1196)²⁷ Maud had apparently an only child Isabel, who married Hugh de Waterville.²⁸ In one charter, before 1166, Maud says 'with the consent of Simon my heir and of my other heirs',²⁹ which suggests the division of her inheritance between her sons Simon and William. Simon evidently died without issue and William received Little Houghton. Their mother is last mentioned in 1201 when Anketil le Lou (*Lupus*) sued her and her sister's husband for 6 virgates of land here. He died and the case ended.³⁰ William Grimbald was tenant of the 7 Ryhall fees and half the Lincolnshire lands of the Houghtons in 1203-4³¹ and by 1212 had succeeded here.³² His son and heir Robert³³ held two fees in these two places and two in Hardwick, Moulton, and Newton in 1235 and 1242.³⁴ His son William, a minor in 1265,³⁵ married Mabel sister and later co-heir of John and William de Kirkby and was lord in 1284,³⁶ but the same year alienated the manors of Brafield and Little Houghton to John de Kirkby,³⁷ Bishop of Ely 1286-90, whose brother and heir, William,³⁸ granted the manor of Little Houghton for life to Henry Spigurnel. Mabel successfully claimed her dower third in both manors in or before 1302, when, her brothers being dead, she was assigned the reversion of Little Houghton manor as her pourparty of the Kirkby estates.³⁹ Henry Spigurnel was returned as



GRIMBALD. Argent two bars azure in a border gules.

¹ *V.C.H. Northants.* i, 218.

² Cott. MS. Vesp. E. xvii, fol. 66.

³ Bridges, loc. cit.

⁴ This house was built for William Randolphe, bailiff of Lord Zouch, and here was born Henry Randolphe who emigrated to Virginia in 1652: *ex inf.* Mr. C. Vere Davidge.

⁵ Another disastrous fire, in 1780, destroyed eight or ten houses in the village: C. Vere Davidge, quoting *Northampton Mercury*.

⁶ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* x, no. 196; *Cal. Pat.* 1334-8, p. 333; *Cal. Close*, 1333-7, p. 714, *ibid.* 1337-9, p. 36.

⁷ Bridges, op. cit. 341, 375. The school buildings belong to the Smythe estate, but in 1934 were leased to the Hoard of Managers for 30 years at a rent of one shilling.

⁸ Pat. 16 Jas. I, p. 8.

⁹ Priv. Acts 7 & 8 Geo. IV, c. 34.

¹⁰ *V.C.H. Northants.* 308a, 354b.

¹¹ *Pipe R.* 9 *Hen. II* (*Pipe R. Soc.*), 40,

13 *Hen. II*, 120; *Cal. Close*, 1237-42, p. 369; *Bk. of Fees*, 494, 501, 938; *Feud. Aids*, iv, 6; manorial references below.

¹² *V.C.H. Northants.* i, 308, 375b.

¹³ Farrer, *Honors and Knights' Fees*, ii, 308.

¹⁴ *Pipe R.* 31 *Hen. I*, 81.

¹⁵ Nichols, *Leic.* ii, 372. The name Caunberleynesdike occurs in Little Houghton in 1302: *Cal. Inq. p.m.* iv, 91, p. 57.

¹⁶ *Pipe R.* loc. cit.

¹⁷ Assize R. 619, m. 13 d, where his date is given as temp. Ric. I.

¹⁸ Cott. MS. Tib. E. v, Plut. xxvii, 1, fol. 165 d.

¹⁹ Assize R. loc. cit.

²⁰ The manor of 'Hocton Grimbaud' is mentioned in 1284: Feet of F. case 174, file 53, no. 136.

²¹ Farrer, op. cit. 303; Cott. MS. Vesp.

E. xvii, fol. 67.

²² Harl. Chart. 84 D. 1.

²³ Cott. MS. loc. cit.

²⁴ Round, *Cal. Docts. France*, 336-7.

²⁵ Cott. MS. Vesp. E. xvii, fol. 68.

²⁶ Harl. Chart. 86 C. 4.

²⁷ Farrer, op. cit. ii, 308.

²⁸ Wrottesley, *Fed. from the Plea R.* 482.

²⁹ Harl. Chart. 86 C. 40.

³⁰ *Cur. Reg. R.* i, 307, 465.

³¹ Farrer, op. cit. ii, 304.

³² *Red Bk. of Exch.* 533.

³³ Assize R. 619, m. 13 d.

³⁴ *Bk. of Fees*, 494, 501, 938; *Cal. Close*, 1237-42, p. 369.

³⁵ *Cal. Inq. Misc.* i, 846.

³⁶ *Feud. Aids*, iv, 6. In 1277 Brafield was still recorded as held of 'Grimbald de Houghton': *Cal. Inq. p.m.* ii, 222.

³⁷ Feet of F. Northants. 13 Edw. I, no. 136; *ibid.* 14 Edw. I, no. 208.

³⁸ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* ii, 781, p. 476.

³⁹ *Cal. Fine R.* 1272-1307, pp. 460-3; *Abbrev. Plac.* (Rec. Com.), 259, 300; *Cal. Close*, 1302-7, p. 409; *Cal. Inq. p.m.* iv, 91, pp. 55, 57.

lord in both places in 1313 and 1316.¹ Mabel died in 1312, her son and heir Robert Grimbald, succeeding her by 1325,² after which date no more is heard of the family here. Walter de Houby is said to have acquired the Grimbald pourparty of the Kirkby inheritance,³ but does not appear in Brafield or Little Houghton; apparently the two moieties of the manors now became united. This is borne out by the tenure of 3 virgates in Brafield which Theobald de Gayton, descendant of a 13th-century Simon de Houghton,⁴ held in 1313 as $\frac{3}{4}$ of a knight's fee of Henry Spigurnel.⁵ His younger sister and co-heir Escholace, wife of Geoffrey de Meaux,⁶ lord of Meaux in Holderness, died seised of 2 virgates in Brafield in 1354, of the gift of her father John de Gayton and held of the lord of the other portion of Brafield and Little Houghton, the descendant of the second Houghton daughter Emma.⁷

Arnold de Bois II, who married Emma younger daughter of Payn de Houghton,⁸ belonged to a family connected with Bois-Arnault in France and Thorpe Arnold in Leicestershire. At the request of Emma he gave, with his body, half Little Houghton Church to his father's foundation of Biddlesden Abbey, Bucks., with land in Great Houghton, and, before 1166, their part in Little Houghton mill.⁹ His son Arnold III¹⁰ was with the rebels in 1216 but returned to great favour.¹¹ Arnold de Bois IV¹² died seised of the manor of Brafield in 1277, leaving a son and heir John¹³ (younger brother of another Arnold¹⁴), who held the one knight's fee of William Grimbald in Little Houghton and Brafield in 1284.¹⁵ He died in 1295 and his brother and heir William¹⁶ in 1300 enfeoffed Milicent de Monhaut of a moiety of these manors for Milicent to grant them to himself for life with remainder to Maud daughter of his sister Isabel by John, Lord Lovel,¹⁷ and her husband William la Zouche of Harringworth, Milicent's son.¹⁸ These two moieties henceforth descend with Harringworth¹⁹ (q.v.). By 1376 the Zouche family alone was returned for the two villis.

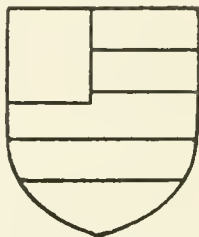
Thomas Wake of Liddell made a fine in 1333 with William la Zouche for the two manors,²⁰ possibly a quitclaim as guardian of the heir of Waterville.²¹ Edward, Lord Zouche, between 1604 and 1615 sold the two manors with the rectories, tithes, and advowsons to

William and Daniel Ward of Brafield.²² William Ward, elder son of John Ward of Brafield, acquired the rectory of Brafield, while Daniel the younger son acquired the manor and rectory of Little Houghton,²³ and possibly the manor and advowson of Brafield. Daniel made a settlement of the rectory in 1618 and died at Little Houghton in 1625, leaving a son and heir William,²⁴ sheriff 1646-7. He died in 1674,²⁵ being in possession of both advowsons at least ten years earlier,²⁶ and his son Thomas was father of William Ward who held both manors and advowsons in about 1720. But by this date two thirds of the manor of Little Houghton had become divided up among the tenants, William Ward holding one third of the manor and of all the lands.²⁷ William's son Thomas died in 1772, when his four surviving sisters, Mary, Martha, Bridget, and Dorothy, sold Little Houghton House in 1773 to Edward Cox of Northampton, who pulled it down. Subsequently, in 1777, Dorothy Ward, the last surviving sister, sold the remainder of the property to Christopher Smyth, son of the rector of Emberton, Bucks.²⁸ Thomas Thornton of Brockhall married in 1692 Elizabeth daughter and heir of William Ward of Brafield. She died in 1737. Her great-grandson Thomas Reeve Thornton²⁹ and Susan his wife conveyed one fifth of the manors of Little Houghton and Brafield in 1801 to Christopher Smyth.³⁰ William Tyler Smyth, nephew of Christopher, came to live at Little Houghton, and died here in 1838. His eldest son William, sheriff 1862, died childless in 1872. His brother Christopher, vicar of Little Houghton, was succeeded in 1897 by his son Christopher Smyth, esq., D.L., J.P.,³¹ lord of both manors, and patron of the living until his death on 8 February 1934, when he was succeeded by his daughter Ursula Catharine, wife of Cecil Vere Davidge, esq.

There was a mill in Little Houghton in 1086,³² and it was shared by Maud de Houghton and her sister Emma, who with her husband Arnold de Bois II gave their share before 1189 to Biddlesden Abbey.³³ Arnold III confirmed, reserving the grinding for his house, and added $1\frac{1}{2}$ virgates of land.³⁴ The other half was bestowed on the abbey in 1260 by Robert Grimbald, who also reserved the grinding for his table and fishery as far as the abbey court. William Grimbald



WARD. Ermine two bars gules charged with three martlets or.



Bois. Argent two bars and a quarter gules.

¹ *Feud. Aids*, iv, 26; *Cal. Inq. p.m.* v, 412, p. 235.

² *Cal. Close*, 1323-7, p. 433; *Cal. Inq. p.m.* vi, 612, p. 391.

³ *Henry of Pytchley's Bk. of Fees* (Northants. Rec. Soc.), 133.

⁴ Farrer, *op. cit.* 323, 399.

⁵ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* v, 412, p. 235, 602, p. 382.

⁶ See Gayton.

⁷ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* x, 185, p. 161. Her son John had livery of this tenement (*Cal. Fine R.* vi, 407; *Abbrev. Rot. Orig.* (Rec. Com.), ii, 232), which probably descended with the manor of Gayton.

⁸ *Assize R.* 619, m. 13 d.

⁹ *Harl. Chart.* 84 F. 40, H. 47, 48, 50; *Harl. MS.* 4714, fols. 1 d, 4.

¹⁰ *Harl. Chart.* 84 H. 52.

¹¹ *Rot. Lit. Claus.* (Rec. Com.), i, *passim*.

¹² Cf. *Harl. MS.* 4714, fol. 4 d.

¹³ *Ibid.* 5 d; *Cal. Inq. p.m.* ii, 222.

¹⁴ *Assize R.* loc. cit.

¹⁵ *Feud. Aids*, iv, 6.

¹⁶ Nichols, *Leicester*, ii, 372.

¹⁷ *G.E.C. Peerage* (2nd ed.), viii, 217.

¹⁸ *Cal. Pat.* 1292-1301, p. 184; Feet of F. Div. Co. Mich. 29-30 Edw. I, no. 61; *Cal. Inq. p.m.* iii, 539.

¹⁹ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* iii, 539; ix, 118, p. 122; *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 3 Hen. V, no. 46; 8 Edw. IV, no. 53; *ibid.* (Ser. 2), xcvi, 41; clviii, 10; *Feud. Aids*, iv, 26, 43; *Early Chan. Proc.* bdle. 457, no. 25; 504, no. 35; *Recov. R. Trin.* 10 Eliz. rot. 152.

²⁰ Feet of F. Northants. 6 Edw. III, case 177, file 74, no. 116.

²¹ See *V.C.H. Northants.* iii, 157.

²² Feet of F. Northants. Mich. 2 Jas. I; *Exch. Dep. East.* 11 Chas. I, no. 11; deeds at Little Houghton House, *ex inf.* Mr. C. Vere Davidge.

²³ *Exch. Dep. East.* 11 Chas. II, no. 11;

Quarter Sess. Rec. (Northants. Rec. Soc.), i, 253.

²⁴ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), cccxxvi, 119. Cf. *Chan. Proc.* (Ser. 2), bdle. 297, no. 13.

²⁵ M.I. in Little Houghton church.

²⁶ *Inst. Bks.* (P.R.O.); Feet of F. Northants. Hil. 15 and 16 Chas. II.

²⁷ Bridges, *op. cit.* 340. A number of curious fractional conveyances of such amounts as $15/2326$ of the joint manors occur: Feet of F. Northants. East. 6 Geo. I; Hil. 7 Geo. I; Mich. 12 Geo. I; Mich. 20 Geo. III.

²⁸ *Ex inf.* Mr. C. Vere Davidge.

²⁹ Baker, *Northants.* i, 115.

³⁰ Feet of F. Northants. East. 41 Geo. III.

³¹ Burke, *Landed Gentry*, 1921.

³² *V.C.H. Northants.* i, 308a.

³³ See above.

³⁴ *Harl. Chart.* 84 H. 48, 52.

made an agreement as to the pool in 1278.¹ In 1326 Ralph Cusyn, perpetual vicar of Brafield, made an agreement as to tithes from the mill called 'Clyfford mylne'.² William la Zouche quitclaimed all right in the two Clifford mills and the pool in 1396.³ The abbey dovecote is mentioned 1296.⁴

The abbey received 110s. 10d. rents and farms here in 1535.⁵ After the Dissolution the abbey property in Houghton, including 'three good mills' at Clifford, was leased to the miller, William Chamberlayne, reputed a 'common lease-monger', who let the mills decay.⁶ For this property he appeared as free tenant at the royal court of Great Billing.⁷ In 1573-4 the abbey's possessions were granted to Christopher Fenton and Bernard Gylpyn.⁸

The church of *ST. MARY THE CHURCH VIRGIN* consists of chancel, 30 ft. 6 in.

by 16 ft. with organ-chamber on the north side, clerestoried nave, 42 ft. 8 in. by 16 ft. 6 in., north and south aisles each 16 ft. 8 in. wide, south porch, and west tower, 11 ft. 9 in. by 12 ft. 3 in., all these measurements being internal. The width across nave and aisles is 55 ft. 3 in.

The north aisle with its extension eastward is an addition of 1873,⁹ at which time the body of the church underwent a very extensive restoration, amounting almost to a rebuilding, and externally, with the exception of the tower, and in some degree the chancel, very little original work remains. The building is of ironstone, with separate low-pitched gabled roofs to nave and aisles, behind straight parapets. The chancel roof overhangs and, with the porch, is covered with red tiles. Internally all the walls are plastered.

The restoration of 1872-3¹⁰ included the removal of south and west galleries (the stairs to which, however, at the west end of the south aisle still remain),¹¹ the erection of new roofs, the building of the porch, and of a new south arcade and clerestory. All this work, together with the new north aisle and its arcade, is in the style of the 14th century, to which period much of the old building appears to have belonged. The south doorway, however, though much restored, is of 13th-century date, as is the greater part of the tower. The doorway has a semicircular arch of three orders, the two outer ones square and the innermost with a slight chamfer. The hood-mould is keel-shaped. The arch springs from moulded imposts and from single jamb shafts with carved capitals and moulded bases.¹² The 13th-century portion of the tower is of three stages, with pairs of buttresses at the western angles, the upper or original bell-chamber stage having on all four sides an arcade of five pointed arches on shafts with moulded capitals and bases, the middle and end arches being wider than the others.¹³ The arches are plainly chamfered and have keel-shaped hood-moulds. There is also a shaft at each angle of the tower at this stage, below

which the buttresses stop. The bottom stage of the tower was originally blank on all three sides but at the time of the restoration two lancet windows were inserted in the west wall. In the second, or middle, stage there is a single original lancet opening on the north side, with keel-shaped hood-mould.

In the 14th century the tower was heightened by the addition of the present bell-chamber, which has tall pointed windows of two trefoiled lights with quatrefoil in the head, and terminates with a battlemented parapet, below which is a band of quatrefoiled circles.

The heightening of the tower seems to have formed part of a very complete 14th-century reconstruction of the church, which probably included the building of a new chancel. The pointed east window is of three trefoiled lights with new reticulated tracery and mullions, but the double hollow-chamfered jambs and head are old. The chancel has a chamfered plinth and diagonal angle buttresses, and there are two restored pointed windows of two trefoiled lights in the south wall and a single modern window of the same character on the north. The two sedilia and piscina form a single architectural composition of three uncusped ogce arches, in the spandrels of which are unpierced trefoils. The piscina, which has a circular bowl, is plainly chamfered, but in the sedilia the roll and fillet is used. At its west end the chancel opens to the aisle on each side by a pointed arch of two chamfered orders, on half-octagonal responds with moulded capitals and bases, and the lofty arch to the nave is of the same character, but wholly restored. The chancel screen was erected in 1873, and the rood and attendant figures were added in 1918.

Bridges states that in his day the east end of the south aisle was 'parted off from the rest' and was called the vicar's chancel.¹⁴ It covers the chancel about 8 ft., but is not structurally divided from the aisle: at the north end of its east wall is a priest's doorway, now blocked.¹⁵ In 1921 this chapel was restored to its proper use. There is a modern organ-chamber on the north side.

The modern nave arcades are of three bays with pointed arches on octagonal pillars with moulded capitals and bases and on responds of similar design. There are three clerestory windows on each side, and all the windows of the south aisle are modern. The wide and lofty 14th-century tower arch is of three chamfered orders to the nave,¹⁶ the innermost order on half-octagonal responds with moulded capitals and bases.

The font has an early-13th-century circular bowl on an octagonal shaft and four legs, on a circular plinth and step. The bowl is ornamented with a species of straight-topped 'arcading'.

The oak pulpit dates from 1873. An oak screen

stone roof.

¹² The bases are new; the capitals have simple stiff foliage.

¹³ The narrower arches, originally open, are now blocked.

¹⁴ *Hist. of Northants.* i, 374. He also says, 'it appears to be the chapel which the lord of the manor had appropriated to the use of himself and his family'.

¹⁵ There is no priest's doorway in the chancel.

¹⁶ On the west side of two orders only, the outer one square.

¹ Ibid. 86 C. 42-3; Harl. MS. 4714, ff. 1 d, 6.

² Cott. MS. Vesp. E. xvii, fol. 66.

³ Harl. Chart. 86, G. 15.

⁴ *Pope Nich. Tax.* (Rec. Com.), 53.

⁵ *F'alor Eccles.* (Rec. Com.), iv, 237.

⁶ Ct. of Req. bdles. 20, no. 124, 22, no. 70.

⁷ Ct. R. (Gen. Ser.), portf. 194, no. 53.

⁸ Bridges, op. cit. 374.

⁹ Bridges, about 1720, describes the church as consisting of 'a body, south aisle, chancel, and west tower' only. The width across nave and aisle was 35 ft. 6 in. :

Hist. of Northants. i, 374.

¹⁰ The faculty is dated 25 Jan. 1872. It was proposed 'to reconstruct the body of the church by the restoration of the south piers and arches (which were pulled down many years since) and to add a new north aisle thereto'. No architectural features were involved in the restoration, the tower not being touched. The architect was Mr. C. Buckeridge, of London.

¹¹ It is a structural stair built partly in front of the tower, to which it now gives access. It terminates externally over the aisle in an octagonal turret with pointed

separating the vestry from the north aisle was erected in 1931.¹

On the north wall of the chancel is a monument to William Ward (d. 1737), his wife Bridget (d. 1735), and seven of their children, erected by two surviving daughters in 1775. The floor slabs of William Ward (d. 1674) and Thomas Ward (d. 1687), mentioned by Bridges, are under the altar.²

In the churchyard is a memorial cross to thirteen men of the parish who fell in the war of 1914-18.

There are five bells in the tower. The first is by Thomas Russell of Wootton (Beds.) 1720, the second by Henry Bagley I 1669, the third by James Keene 1624, the fourth by Henry Bagley II 1685, and the tenor by Matthew Bagley I 1685.³

The plate consists of a cup of 1685; a paten and flagon of 1721, each inscribed 'The Gift of William Ward Esq. 1722'; a 17th-century bread-holder without marks;⁴ and a chalice and paten of 1897-8.

The registers before 1812 are as follows: (i) all entries 1541-1632; (ii) 1558-1695; (iii) 1558-1669 on paper; (iv) 1653-95; (v) 1695-1736; (vi) baptisms and burials 1742-1801, marriages 1742-54; (vii) marriages 1754-1812; (viii) baptisms and burials 1801-12. The first two volumes have been rebound.

Payn de Houghton presented to *ADVOWSON* the church⁵ before 1161, and the advowson was shared by his daughters. Robert Grimbald gave Maud's share, on the day he died, with his body, to the Priory of St. Andrew, Northampton. Robert, Bishop of Lincoln (1147-66), confirmed this grant, as did Maud, her heir Simon, and her second husband Richard del Peak.⁶ Arnold de Bois II at the request of Emma his wife gave their moiety to Biddlesden Abbey to provide lights in the church for ever before 1189.⁷ That abbey alienated it early next century to St. Andrew's Priory, for 2 marks annual pension,⁸ which was still paid at the time of the surrender.⁹ John de Bois quitclaimed in 1285.¹⁰ The priory continued to present, except when its possessions as an alien priory were in the king's hands owing to the Hundred Years War, until 1538, when the rectories and advowsons of Little Houghton and Brafield and all the possessions of the priory there were surrendered.¹¹ The Crown retained the advowson when leasing the rectory in 1568-9 and in 1587-8 granted both to Edward Downing and others.¹² John Stanley and John Payne are said to have been seised in fee of the two rectories and sold to Lord Zouche,¹³ but Henry Knollys and Anne his wife conveyed this rectory in 1590 to Lord Zouche.¹⁴ The advowsons descended with the

manors (q.v.) until 1774, when Mary and Dorothy Ward sold the joint advowson of the two parishes, which had been united about 1685, to Mrs. Ann Walker, and presentation was made by Tilley Walker in 1775. Next year the Rev. J. Walker sold it to Esther Mendham, who presented in 1794. She sold in 1808 to Thomas Graham, who conveyed it in 1817 to the Rev. John Johnson, who was vicar from 1817 to 1838, in which year the advowson was bought by William Tyler Smyth for his son the Rev. Christopher Smyth, in whose family it has remained, being now in the gift of Miss Smyth and Mrs. Davidge.¹⁵

The vicarage was ordained in the time of Hugh de Welles, Bishop of Lincoln¹⁶ (1209-35), who in 1231 deprived the vicar Peter de Northampton for refusing to appear at his summons or reside at Little Houghton or perform his office.¹⁷

Edward Lye (1694-1767), the Anglo-Saxon scholar, was vicar of Little Houghton 1721-50.¹⁸

William Grimbald, lord c. 1265-84, obtained from the priory the right to a chapel for himself and his heirs, presumably in the manor-house, whenever staying at Little Houghton, saving the rights of the mother church.¹⁹

Town Estate or Church Land and CHARITIES Cottages. An allotment of 8 a. 3 r. was set out on an Inclosure in this parish in lieu of certain parcels of land in the open fields, which had from ancient time been held as appropriated to the reparation of the church. There are also six cottages belonging to this charity the origin of which appears to be uncertain. The land and cottages are let and the rents amounting to £28 (approximately) yearly are applied by the churchwardens towards the repair of the church.

Dorothy Ward by her will dated 11th June 1792 bequeathed £200, the income to be applied in putting out poor boys as apprentices. The endowment is now represented by Stock held by the Official Trustees producing £10 7s. 6d. yearly in dividends.

Gifts of Mary, Martha, and Dorothy Ward. Dorothy Ward by her will dated as above also directed two sums of £100 each given by her sisters, and £100 given by herself, to be invested, the interest to be distributed among the most necessitous poor old persons of the parish. The endowment is now represented by £500 Consols held by the Official Trustees producing £12 10s. annually in dividends. This charity is now regulated by a Scheme of the Charity Commissioners dated 5 May 1905, by which 5 trustees were appointed. The income of the charities is applied in apprenticing and for the benefit of the poor.

¹ It is a memorial to Charles Farr, vicar 1924-9.

² They were uncovered in 1932, when the top step, dating from 1873, was removed.

³ North, *Ch. Bells of Northants.* 310, where the inscriptions are given. On the bell-frame is cut '1637 Edward Freeman of Brackley made this frame. John Maryeat and Thomas . . . ys Churchwardens March the 27.'

⁴ Markham, *Ch. Plate of Northants.* 163. The cup has the maker's mark EV

crowned, above a pellet in a shaped shield.

⁵ Assize R. 619, m. 13 d.

⁶ Cott. MS. Vesp. E. xvii, fols. 67-8, 289, 290 d.

⁷ Harl. MS. 4714, fol. 1 d.; Harl. Chart. 84 H. 47.

⁸ Harl. Chart. 84 F. 40; Cott. MS. Vesp. E. xvii, fol. 68 d, 77 d, 79.

⁹ *Valor Eccles.* (Rec. Com.), iv, 314-15.

¹⁰ Feet of F. Northants. 14 Edw. I.

¹¹ Feet of F. Div. Co. Hil. 29 Hen.

VIII; *L. and P. Hen. VIII*, xiii (1), 404.

¹² Pat. 30 Eliz. pt. 15.

¹³ Exch. Dep. East. 11 Chas. I, no. 11.

¹⁴ Feet of F. Northants. East. 32 Eliz.

¹⁵ Deeds at Little Houghton House, *ex inf.* Mr. C. Vere Davidge; and Inst. Bks. (P.R.O.).

¹⁶ Bridges, *op. cit.* 374.

¹⁷ *Rot. Hug. de Welles* (Cant. and York Soc.), 175, 270.

¹⁸ *Dict. Nat. Biog.*

¹⁹ Cott. MS. Vesp. E. xvii, fol. 68.

MILTON MALZOR

Midleton (xi cent.); Middleton Malsores (xiv cent.); Milton *alias* Middleton Malsor (xviii cent.).

The parish of Milton Malzor covers an area of 1,479 acres. The subsoil is of clay and sand, while the soil varies in different parts of the parish. Towards the south-east and south-west it is of a light red sandy nature, at the extremity of the south it is strong, deep, and rich, the north side is loamy. The parish is well timbered with elm and ash, and a part of it is devoted to pasture. The chief crops produced are wheat and barley. The Northampton Canal, connecting the River Nene with the Grand Junction Canal, borders the north-west part of the parish.

Many 17th- and early-18th-century stone cottages with high-pitched thatched roofs and coped gable ends remain in the village, though in most cases the windows have been modernized. One of these houses, in the middle of the village, bears a tablet inscribed '1638, s.m., i.m.'; another near the north end has '1654, A.P., T.P.', and a third is dated 1701.

Of the two manor-houses that of the manor of Peverel, known simply as The Manor,¹ is a gabled building with mullioned windows, probably of early-16th-century date, with a two-story bay window on its west side, but the east front was rebuilt in the 18th century. To the north-west of the house is a rectangular stone dovecote with tiled roof, one of the gables of which has been rebuilt in brick. The other manor-house (Mantell's) is on the west side of the village and is now known as Milton Manor. Its south front, facing the road, was rebuilt in the 18th century and is a simple stuccoed composition of two stories, with cornice, sash windows, and pedimented doorway.² The older part of the house contains a good 17th-century oak staircase.³ 'Milton House', which stands a little to the west of the Manor, was enlarged in 1777 by the addition of a south wing faced with Duston stone.⁴ The house known as 'Mortimers', on the south side of the village, is a long, plain two-story building of 18th-century date.

In 1086 William **MANORS** held of Geoffrey Alsclin 3½ hides in **MILTON**. To the manor pertained 2 hides less a virgate in Collingtree which were let to two socmen, and ½ hide in Rothersthorpe.⁵ At the time of the Northamp-

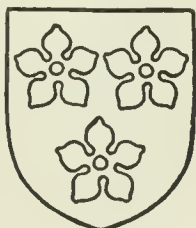
tonshire Survey (12th cent.) these 5½ hides in Milton and Collingtree were held by Robert de Causho and Geoffrey.⁶ The lands of Geoffrey Alsclin descended to Ralph Hauselyn who died without male heirs, leaving his property to Thomas Bardolf, husband of his grand-daughter Rose.⁷ William son of Doun son of Thomas Bardolf held the overlordship of 1 knight's fee in Milton and Collingtree of the honor of Peverel, about 1236.⁸ He survived until late in 1275,⁹ being succeeded by his son William, who held the overlordship in 1284,¹⁰ which passed on his death in 1290¹¹ to his son Hugh, who died in 1304,¹² and from him to his son Thomas. He died in 1330,¹³ leaving 1 knight's fee in



MILTON MALZOR: THE MANOR

Milton to his wife Agnes who held it until her death on 12 December 1357.¹⁴ Her son John, who was 30 years old at the time of her death, died before October 1361 when his son William was a ward of the king.¹⁵ William died before 1389–90 seised of ¾ of a knight's fee in Milton and Collingtree, which was probably forfeited with his other property when his son Thomas was convicted of treason.¹⁶

The family of Malesoures from which Milton took its distinctive name was settled there from an early date, the first recorded member being William Malesoures who sued Richard son of Reynold in 1208 for a virgate of land in Collingtree, first in the court of Doun Bardolf and later in the king's court.¹⁷ John Malesoures held a knight's fee in Milton and Collingtree of William Bardolf in 1235 and 1242.¹⁸ The fee descended to William Malesoures who held it

BARDOLF. *Azure three cinquefoils or.*MALESOURES. *Party azure and gules three crescents argent.*

¹ It stands on the south side of the village, on the north side of the road called Pluck's Lane.

² There are good gate piers surmounted by balls. Over the doorway is a classic bust within the broken pediment.

³ B. E. Evans, *The Story of Milton Malzor*, 44.

⁴ *Northants. N. and Q. N.S.* v, 121, where a drawing by George Clarke is reproduced.

⁵ *F.C.H. Northants.* i, 345.

⁶ *Ibid.* 375.

⁷ *Cal. Pat.* 1408–13, p. 95.

⁸ *Bk. of Fees.* i, 605.

⁹ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* ii, 190.

¹⁰ *Feud. Aids.* iv, 5.

¹¹ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* ii, 772.

¹² *Ibid.* iv, 236.

¹³ *Ibid.* vii, 243.

¹⁴ *Ibid.* x, 389.

¹⁵ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 39 Edw. III (1st nos.), 19.

¹⁶ *Cal. Pat.* 1408–13, pp. 95–6.

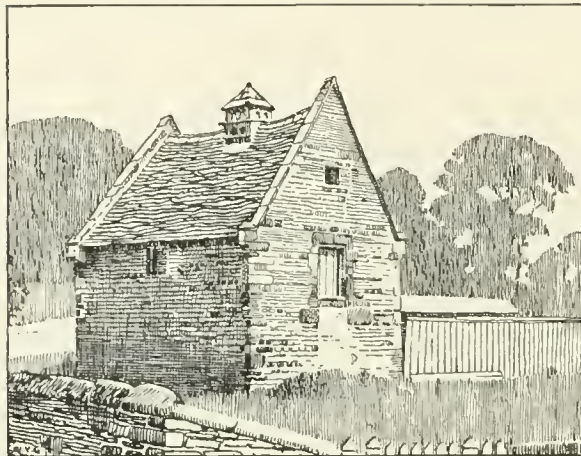
¹⁷ *Cur. Reg. R.* v, 224, 237.

¹⁸ *Bk. of Fees.* i, 500; ii, 942.

A HISTORY OF NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

in 1284,¹ from whom it passed to his son William and the latter's son John Malesoures, who had possession of it in 1316² and was succeeded by his son Ralph.³ Thomas son of Ralph Malesoures died in October 1361 seised of the manor, which he held jointly with his brother Hugh who survived him, with remainder to his daughter Amice, then aged nine, and Hugh's heirs.⁴ Amice married Sir Roger Parwick,⁵ who was involved in 1387 in a lawsuit over the presentation to the churches of Milton and Collingtree.⁶ In 1412 William Parwick held land in the two parishes to the value of £22,⁷ and in 1428 the heirs of John Parwick were in possession of the lands formerly held there by Thomas Josep and Philip Malesoures.⁸

In 1481 the manor of Milton and Collingtree was



MILTON MALZOR: DOVECOTE

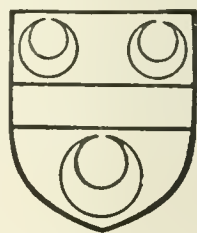
held by Richard Parwick who on 20 June of that year settled it on his son William and Godith his wife. They settled the manor on their daughter Rose, wife of William Digby, in 1506, but she died before her mother, on whose death in 1518 it passed to Rose's son John Digby then a minor of eleven years.⁹ John married Mary daughter of William, Lord Parr, by whom he had one son William Digby. Mary survived her husband and then married Henry Brook, to whom William sold the manor in December 1552. Their son Roger Brook married Mary daughter of Sir Thomas Fullchurch and died on 22 November 1558, leaving a young daughter Mary¹⁰ who died in June 1564. The manor descended under her grandfather's will to Basil Brook, son of his nephew Andrew.¹¹ He conveyed it to William Goodere in 1581,¹² from whom it passed to Sir William Samwell of Upton in 1595.¹³ He settled the manor on his daughter Jane on her marriage with Sir Sapcotes Harrington of Rand, who sold it to Francis Harvey, serjeant-at-law, in 1621.¹⁴ On the marriage of his son

Stephen with Mary Murden he settled the manor on him. Stephen predeceased his father in March 1630 leaving a son Francis aged 7 years.¹⁵ Francis died in September 1643, his heir being his brother Richard who was then nineteen.¹⁶ From Richard Harvey the manor passed to Richard Glead and his son Edmund, who survived him and bequeathed it to his son Richard by his will of 25 April 1679. By 1720 Elizabeth the only daughter of Richard Glead and widow of Richard Dodwell was lady of the manor.¹⁷ At the time of the inclosure John Darker held the manor, which passed on his death in February 1784¹⁸ to his grand-daughter, Mary Nash, who married William Blake of Danesbury, near Welwyn. The manor remained in the possession of the family until the latter part of the 19th century when Col. A. Blake sold it to Mr. James Asplin, who remained lord of the manor until his death in 1923.

The heirs of Robert de Causho kept the overlordship of his lands in Milton and Collingtree, as of the fee of Cauz, until 1235,¹⁹ but by 1242 it had passed to Robert de Everingham who held of the honor of Lexington.²⁰ In 1284 Philip de Quenton held a mesne lordship of one fee of Robert de Everingham,²¹ which he conveyed to Philip de Gayton by fine in 1292-3.²² Philip died without issue in 1316,²³ being succeeded by his brother Theobald who died childless a few days after him,²⁴ his heirs being his two sisters, Juliana, who was later burnt for the murder of her husband, Thomas Murdak,²⁵ and Scholastica widow of Geoffrey de Meaux. Theobald's wife held a third of his lands in Milton and Collingtree in dower,²⁶ but by 1322 Scholastica had possession of the whole of the knight's fee formerly held by her brothers.²⁷ She died in 1354, her son John, then aged 40 years, succeeding her.²⁸ Sir John de Meaux died without heirs some time after 1377,²⁹ and the fee evidently passed with the manor of Gayton to the Trussell family. The last mention of the overlordship occurs in 1504 when William Tanfeld of Gayton is named as the overlord.³⁰

At the end of the 12th century William de le Fremont owned land in Milton and Collingtree which he conveyed to Simon de Pateshull together with half the advowson of the churches of Milton and Collingtree in 1201.³¹ William died without issue and his lands here were divided among his sisters, one of whom, Emma, wife of William de Gatesbury, conveyed her sixth share to William de Pateshull in 1224.³²

Hugh de Pateshull, Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield and younger son of Simon, held 1½ fees in Milton and



PATESHULL. *Argent a fesse sable between three crescents gules.*

¹ *Feud. Aids*, iv, 5.

² *Ibid.* 27.

³ Wrottesley, *Peds. from Plea Rolls*, 169. A Philip Malesoures, 'of Milton' in 1347, was possibly descended from the elder William by a second wife: *Cal. Close*, 1346-9, p. 380. See also *Cal. Pat.* 1345-8, p. 13.

⁴ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 39 Edw. III (1st nos.), 19.

⁵ Wrottesley, loc. cit.

⁶ *Cal. Pat.* 1385-9, p. 282.

⁷ *Feud. Aids*, vi, 496.

⁸ *Ibid.* iv, 42.

⁹ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), xxxiii, 140.

¹⁰ *Ibid.* cxxvii, 39.

¹¹ *Ibid.* clxvi, 56.

¹² Feet of F. Northants. Trin. 23 Eliz.

¹³ *Ibid.* Mich. 37 & 38 Eliz.

¹⁴ *Ibid.* Hil. 18 Jas. I.

¹⁵ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), cccclxxx, 84.

¹⁶ *Ibid.* dxxiii, 50.

¹⁷ Bridges, *Hist. Northants.* i, 376.

¹⁸ Baker, *Hist. Northants.* ii, 277.

¹⁹ *Bk. of Fees*, i, 496.

²⁰ *Ibid.* ii, 942.

²¹ *Feud. Aids*, iv, 5.

²² Feet of F. Northants. 21 Edw. I,

no. 309.

²³ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* v, 601.

²⁴ *Ibid.* 602.

²⁵ Assize R. 632, m. 6r.

²⁶ *Cal. Close*, 1313-18, p. 368.

²⁷ *Ibid.* 1318-23, p. 609.

²⁸ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* x, 185.

²⁹ *Testamenta Ebor.* (Surtees Soc.), i, 100.

³⁰ *Cal. Inq. p.m. Hen. VII*, ii, 847.

³¹ *Rot. Chart.* (Rec. Com.), i, 95.

³² Feet of F. Northants. 9 Hen. III, no. 21.

Collingtree in 1235-6 of the fee of Cauz,¹ which his nephew Simon, son of his elder brother Walter, held in 1242-3 of Robert de Everingham.² He was succeeded by his son John who held a fee of Philip de Quenton in 1284.³ From him the manor passed to his son Simon who died in 1295 holding the manor of Philip de Gayton by service of a knight's fee and a rent of £10.⁴ His son John, who was only four years old at the time of his father's death, was returned as one of the tenants of Milton and Collingtree in 1316,⁵ and died in 1349 holding the land of Scholastica de Meaux by service of 22s. yearly. It was rented at £27 8s. 3½d. and rents of 4 capons, 6 hens, and 6 horseshoes with nails from divers tenements arrented of old.⁶ His son William died without issue ten years later and, on the division of his property among his four sisters,⁷ the 2 virgates in Milton and Collingtree were assigned to Alice, the wife of Thomas Wake of Blisworth.⁸ On her death in 1398⁹ she was succeeded by her grandson Thomas, whose son Thomas held ½ fee in Milton and Collingtree in 1428.¹⁰ He died on 10 September 1458 holding the manor jointly with his wife Agnes, his heir being his son Thomas who was born about 1434.¹¹ Roger Wake succeeded his father on his death in May 1476.¹² He was attainted as a follower of Richard III in 1485, his manor of Milton and Collingtree being granted to Sir Charles de Somerset,¹³ but he subsequently obtained a pardon and restitution of his lands.¹⁴ By deed of 10 March 1496 he conveyed the manor to feoffees appointed as executors of his will. He died on 16 March 1504, leaving to his brother William an annual rent of £15 from the manors, and land worth £12 yearly there to be amortized to the use of the chaplain of the chantry he founded at Blisworth.¹⁵ His heir Thomas Wake subsequently sold the manors to Oliver Wood, who by his will of 21 May 1520 left them to his daughter Margaret, wife of Sir Walter Mantell, with remainder to their sons John, Walter, and Thomas in tail male.¹⁶ From this ill-starred family the manors became known as *MANTELL'S MANOR*.

The eldest son of John Mantell was convicted of felony and put to death, leaving a son Walter who later suffered the same fate on being convicted of treason. Walter Mantell, the second son, was also attainted on a charge of treason, and on the death of Margaret, then the widow of Sir James Hales, in 1567, the manor passed to Walter's eldest son Matthew who was aged 21 years.¹⁷ The property was at this time described as the manors of Milton next Collingtree, Milton Malzor, and Collingtree. Matthew Mantell conveyed the manors to Francis Foxley in 1589,¹⁸ from whom they passed to William Dry in 1610.¹⁹ He died in 1637, being buried in Milton Malzor Church, where an inscription describes him as 'Yeoman, Lord of a Manor

in this towne called Mantell's-Manor'.²⁰ He was succeeded by his son William who was living in 1666,²¹ but had been succeeded in 1686 by his son Edward Dry,²² who died on 19 November 1707.²³ By the marriage of Anne daughter of Edward Dry, the manor came to Edward Price, who presented to the church of Milton Malzor in 1745.²⁴ At the time of the inclosure in 1779 James King was the lord of the manor, but he sold it soon after to Joseph Dent, whose descendant, Sir W. Ryland Dent Adkins, K.C., held it till his death in 1925.

The church of *THE HOLY CROSS*²⁵ *CHURCH* consists of chancel 30 ft. 6 in. by 15 ft. 4 in. with north and south chapels each 18 ft. 6 in. by 16 ft. 6 in., clerestoried nave 42 ft. 3 in. by 18 ft. 9 in., north and south aisles 14 ft. 6 in. wide, south porch, and west tower 7 ft. 6 in. by 8 ft. 6 in., all these measurements being internal. The width across nave and aisles is 53 ft. The chapels are continuous eastward of the aisles and cover the chancel for more than half its length.

The building generally is of roughly coursed limestone, with straight parapets to the chancel, nave, and aisles. The roofs are all modern, those of the chancel,²⁶ nave and porch slated, the aisles leaded. All the walls are plastered internally, and the floors, except in the sanctuary, flagged. A gallery, since removed, was erected at the west end of the nave in 1817, and in 1824 the church was completely resealed.²⁷ The chancel was restored in 1874, and the remainder of the fabric in 1876-7,²⁸ when it was again resealed, the wall of the north aisle heightened, and the porch rebuilt. In 1904 St. Katharine's chapel, at the east end of the south aisle, was restored to its original purpose.

The building underwent a very considerable reconstruction in the 14th century, but the oldest parts of the present structure are the cylindrical pillars of the north arcade, which are c. 1180-90 and have circular moulded bases on square chamfered plinths, but they have been heightened and the capitals are later. The arcade is of four bays with half-round responds, but the bases of the responds are chamfered and their plinths are half-octagons. The base mouldings of the pillars²⁹ indicate a late-12th-century aisled church of some importance, no other architectural features of which have survived. That a rebuilding of the aisles took place at a fairly early date is suggested by the pointed three-light windows in their west walls, which are of three sharply pointed uncusped lights, of c. 1270. The tower is without buttresses and has so few architectural features in its lower stage that it is difficult to date. Its plinth, however, is continuous with that of the aisles and the pointed west doorway is of three continuous chamfered orders. The round relieving arch above it

Chapel in the north aisle. The altar of St. Nicholas may have been in the middle part of the south aisle: see B. E. Evans, *Story of Milton Malzor* (1924), 64.

²⁶ In Bridges' time the chancel was leaded. The lead was renewed in 1796: Evans, op. cit. 103.

²⁷ Ibid. 104.

²⁸ It is described as having been in 'a very bad condition'. The clerestory windows were dilapidated and the tower was leaning 7½ in. to the west. The cost of restoration was £2,154. The church was reopened 12 July 1877: *ibid.* 110.

²⁹ They consist of two rounds with a shallow water-holding hollow between.

¹ *Bk. of Fees*, i, 496.

² *Ibid.* ii, 942.

³ *Feud. Aids*, iv, 5.

⁴ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* iii, 369.

⁵ *Feud. Aids*, iv, 27.

⁶ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* ix, 350.

⁷ *Ibid.* x, 520.

⁸ *Cal. Fine*, vii, 119.

⁹ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 22 Ric. II, no. 50.

¹⁰ *Feud. Aids*, iv, 43.

¹¹ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 37 Hen. VI, no. 19.

¹² *V.C.H. Northants. Families*, p. 322.

¹³ *Cal. Pat.* 1485-94, p. 100. In 1553 William, Earl of Worcester, grandson of Sir Charles, asserted that he was seised of the manor: *Cal. Pat. Edw. VI*, v, 47.

¹⁴ *Rolls of Parl.* vi, 393.

¹⁵ *Cal. Inq. Hen. VII*, ii, 847.

¹⁶ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), clxv, 132.

¹⁷ *Ibid.*

¹⁸ Feet of F. Northants. Hil. 31 Eliz.

¹⁹ *Ibid.* Mich. 8 Jas. 1.

²⁰ Bridges, *Hist. Northants.* i, 377.

²¹ Feet of F. Northants. East. 18 Chas.

II.

²² *Ibid.* t and 2 Jas. II.

²³ B. E. Evans, *The Story of Milton Malzor*, 42.

²⁴ *Inst. Bks.* (P.R.O.).

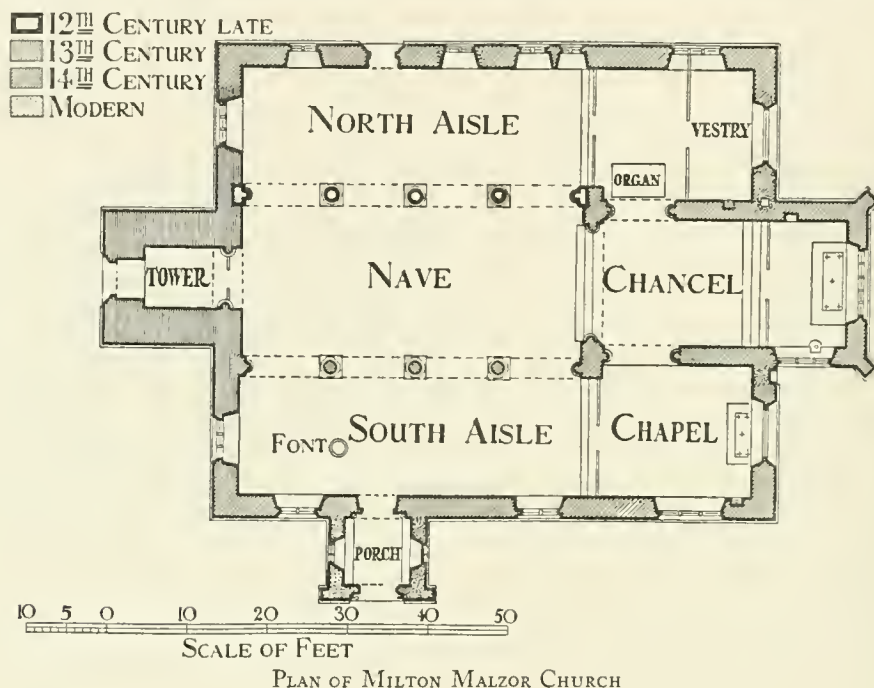
²⁵ Brown Willis (1730-42) gives the dedication as St. Helen, though Bridges calls it Holy Cross. The high altar was dedicated to St. Helen. St. Katharine's chapel was in the south aisle, and the Lady

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is too high and too wide to have been the arch of an earlier doorway, and nothing indicates that the doorway is an insertion. The great width of the aisles would suggest their having been rebuilt during the 14th-century reconstruction, when perhaps they were extended eastward to provide chapels, the old masonry being re-used and the west windows retained. The changes in the building during the 14th century included the rebuilding of the south arcade, the heightening of the north arcade, the erection of the present chancel, and of the upper part of the tower. The octagonal lantern, which is so conspicuous a feature of the church, was probably a 15th-century addition.

erected. The reredos and oak panelling date from 1930.

The south chapel (St. Katharine's) is lighted from the east by a large and beautiful 14th-century traceried wheel window set within a plain deeply recessed opening⁴ high in the wall.⁵ A copy of this window, which is the outstanding architectural feature of the church, was inserted in the north chapel in 1856, in the place of a then existing window of two lights, but the authority for such 'restoration' is doubtful.⁶ There are piscinas in both chapels; that in the north chapel has a plain trefoiled chamfered head and circular bowl, but the larger one in St. Katharine's chapel has a pointed arch



The chancel has diagonal angle buttresses and a chamfered plinth along the east wall. The pointed east window is of five trefoiled lights¹ with reticulated tracery and hood-mould, and there is a modern three-light window of the same character at the east end of the south wall.² The piscina has a round-headed trefoiled arch and plain circular projecting bowl, but it is much restored. In the north wall is a pointed aumbry, with wide chamfer, fitted with a modern door. There are no sedilia. At its west end the chancel opens on each side to the chapels, by pointed arches of two chamfered orders, the inner order on half-round responds with moulded capitals and chamfered bases; the arch to the nave is similar. These arches are without hood-moulds and the capitals are half-octagonal. There are no screens. The floor of the chancel was raised a step in 1874,³ and three small quatrefoil clerestory windows were introduced on each side when the new roof was

with cinquefoil cusping, hollow-chamfered jambs and fluted bowl.⁷ At the north end of the east wall of the south chapel is a narrow priest's doorway, now blocked, and the chapel is lighted on the south by a pointed window of three tall cinquefoiled lights. The corresponding window in the north chapel is of three trefoiled lights with good 14th-century quatrefoil tracery. The floors of the chapels are two steps above the aisles, but there are no dividing arches⁸ and the roofs are continuous.

The south arcade of the nave consists of four pointed arches of two chamfered orders springing from circular pillars and half-round responds, with moulded capitals like those of the chancel arch. The bases of the responds also correspond with those in the chancel, but the bases of the pillars are moulded and on square plinths.⁹ The arches are without hood-moulds. In the north arcade the older pillars, as already stated, were heightened in

¹ The jambs are double chamfered.

² The chancel projects only 11 ft. 6 in. beyond the chapels.

³ The Jacobean altar rails were discarded at this time.

⁴ The head is new; there is no hood-mould.

⁵ The sill is 7 ft. above the plinth.

⁶ The vestry minute book, 13 Apr. 1857, records thanks to the donor 'for

the manner in which he has restored the wheel window at the east end of the north aisle', but the term 'restoration' is subject to a wide interpretation. A picture of the church made about 1850 shows a two-light window in this position: Evans, *op. cit.* 107.

⁷ The opening is 2 ft. 6 in. high by 16 in. wide; that in the north chapel is

1 ft. 11 in. by 16 in. In neither case is there a hood-mould.

⁸ There are modern pitch-pine screens. The north chapel is now used as a vestry.

⁹ The top member of the base mouldings is circular, below which the base becomes octagonal. The plinths are the same size as those opposite and probably belong to the pillars of an earlier arcade.

the 14th-century reconstruction, new capitals introduced and pointed arches like those opposite built upon them.¹

The pointed south doorway is of two continuous chamfered orders with hood-mould, and the north doorway is also of two continuous orders, the outer moulded and the inner with a hollow chamfer. In the south aisle there is a pointed 14th-century window of two trefoiled lights and quatrefoil in the head on each side of the doorway, and the north aisle is lighted by three square-headed windows of two trefoiled lights in the north wall.² The west windows of the aisles have already been noted. In the north wall of the north aisle, short of the chapel, is a pointed window of two trefoiled lights, the sill of which is carried down, possibly to serve as a low-side window.³

The four clerestory windows date from 1877. They occur only on the south side and are small trefoil openings in triangular frames.⁴

The tower is of three stages marked externally by strings, the two lower stages having a slight batter. The west doorway has already been described. In the middle stage there is a single-light pointed window on each side, and the tall pointed bell-chamber windows are of two trefoiled lights with quatrefoil in the head. The tower terminates in a battlemented parapet with angle pinnacles. There is no vice. The pointed tower arch is of three chamfered orders, the two outer dying into the wall, the inner on half-round responds with capitals and bases like those of the responds of the nave arcades. The octagon has a window in each of its cardinal faces; on the east side a single trefoiled opening, on the south and west a pointed window of two trefoiled lights with quatrefoil in the head, and on the north a four-centred single-light moulded window. The short spire has crocketed angles and openings on four sides.

The font is apparently of late-12th-century date and consists of a plain circular curved bowl, slightly chamfered round the top, on a short modern stem and base.⁵

The pulpit dates from 1874,⁶ and all the fittings are modern. An organ was first introduced in 1852.⁷

In the chancel and south chapel are marble wall monuments to Jane, wife of Sir Sapcotes Harrington and daughter of Sir William Samwell, who died in 1619, and to Richard Dodwell (d. 1726). In the north chapel is a tablet to William Dry, yeoman (d. 1637). There is a memorial in the north aisle to thirteen men of the parish killed or missing in the war of 1914-19.

There is a ring of five bells by Henry Bagley II of Chacombe 1686.⁸

The silver plate consists of a cup of 1570, a paten of 1700, and a flagon of 1772; there is also a plated alms dish.⁹

The registers before 1812 are as follows: (i) all

entries 1558-1742; (ii) 1742-85; (iii) baptisms and burials 1786-1813 on parchment; (iv) baptisms September 1785-December 1795 on paper; (v) marriages 1754-1812.¹⁰

The churchyard was extended to the north-east in 1912 by the inclusion of a square piece of land known as the 'Hempland'.¹¹

From an early date the churches of *ADFOWSON* Milton and Collingtree were united, presentations being made to the moieties of the two churches. Simon de Pateshull obtained the advowson of one moiety by the gift of William de le Fremont in 1201,¹² and his grandson held both moieties by the middle of the century.¹³ At the death of Sir William de Pateshull in 1359, one moiety went to his sister Alice Wake,¹⁴ and the other to Thomas Fauconberg, son of his sister Maud, then deceased. In 1386 he forfeited his property as an adherent of the King of France.¹⁵ Sir Roger Parwick claimed the advowson but was defeated.¹⁶

During the year 1441 the last presentation to a moiety of the two churches appears to have been made.¹⁷ They were subsequently separated and Thomas Wake died in 1459 seized of the advowson of Collingtree.¹⁸ It seems probable that the Parwick family did eventually regain the advowson of Milton Malzor church, for in 1552 William Digby sold it with the manor to Henry Brook. The advowson followed the same descent as the manor until sold by Francis Harvey in 1659 to Sir John Potts and others.¹⁹ It subsequently changed hands several times, and in 1925 the legatees of Mr. Pickering Phipps of Collingtree gave it to the Bishop of Peterborough.

The Baptists and Methodists have chapels in the village.

Mark Bailey by will proved 11 May *CHARITIES* 1888 gave to the vicar and churchwardens £10 to be invested and the proceeds to be given away in bread to the needy and necessitous poor. The endowment is now represented by £9 5s. 11d. Consols producing 4s. 8d. yearly in dividend which is distributed in kind to the poor.

Richard Dodwell by will proved 1 July 1726 charged certain premises in Milton with a yearly rent-charge of £2 12s. to be distributed in loaves among the poor. The rent-charge has been redeemed and the endowment is represented by £104 Consols. Under a Scheme of the Charity Commissioners dated 4 February 1898 a body of 4 trustees was appointed. The Scheme provides for the income to be distributed in kind to the deserving and necessitous poor of the parish.

Poor Estate. The endowment of this charity of which the origin is unknown consists of 2 cottages and 1 acre of land. The land and cottages are let and the

¹ The two easternmost pillars are of white stone to a height of 6 ft. (seven courses), above which are four courses of brown stone. The westernmost pillar is all brown stone, except perhaps the bottom course, which is a light colour, but its base is original. The diameter of the pillars of the north arcade is 22½ in., that of the south arcade pillars 21 in.

² The jambs of all these windows have a plain inner chamfer, and an outer hollow chamfer. Relieving arches were turned over the north aisle windows when the wall was heightened.

³ *Assoc. Arch. Soc. Rpts.* xxix, 432. The sill is 4 ft. 6 in. above the ground and 16 in. below the sills of the other windows.

Internally the opening plays towards the east only.

⁴ Before the restoration there were three 'vile and badly constructed wooden windows': Evans, op. cit. 110.

⁵ The font was restored in 1850. It has a modern flat cover.

⁶ There had been 'a new pulpit' in 1809: Evans, op. cit. 103.

⁷ The present organ was given in 1891.

⁸ North, *Ch. Bells of Northants*, 337, where the inscriptions are given. A clock with one dial was placed in the tower in 1863. Several bequests to the bells in 16th-century wills (1526-70) are given in Evans, op. cit. 132.

⁹ Markham, *Ch. Plate of Northants*, 192.

¹⁰ In vol. i the entries for the first forty years (1558-98) are transcriptions by Thomas Mayo, curate. The first six leaves have been damaged by fire: Evans, op. cit. 96.

¹¹ *Ibid.* 205.

¹² *Rot. Chart.* (Rec. Com.), i, 95.

¹³ *Rot. Roberti Grosseteste* (Cant. and York Soc.), 203.

¹⁴ *Cal. Close*, 1396-9, p. 347.

¹⁵ *Chan. Inq.* p.m. 11 Ric. II, no. 59.

¹⁶ *Cal. Pat.* 1385-9, p. 382.

¹⁷ *Cal. Pat.* 1441-6, p. 5.

¹⁸ *Chan. Inq.* p.m. 37 Hen. VI, no.

19.

¹⁹ Feet of F. Northants. Hil. 1659.

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rent amounting to £10 5s. annually is distributed by 3 trustees to the poor in loaves of bread.

Church or Town Estate. This charity comprises an allotment of about 19 acres of land and 4 cottages. The land and cottages are let and the rent is received by the churchwardens and applied towards church expenses.

William Underwood in about 1799 bequeathed £100 for providing bread for the poor. The endow-

ment now consists of £184 5s. 10d. Consols producing an income of £4 12s. 4d. which is distributed by 3 trustees to the poor in loaves of bread.

Miss Frances Montgomery by will proved 25 September 1888 gave £50 to the rector to be applied annually in the purchase of coal to be distributed amongst the poor inhabitants; the income amounts to £1 5s. 8d.

PIDDINGTON WITH HACKLETON

Pidentone (xi cent.); Pedinton (xii cent.); Pydington (xiii cent.). Hachelintone (xi cent.); Hakelington (xii cent.); Haclynton (xiv cent.).

The parish of Piddington lies 5½ miles south-east by south from Northampton near the road to Newport Pagnell which passes through Hackleton village to the north-east. It has a station on the Northampton and Bedford branch of the L.M.S. railway. There are 1,693 acres in Piddington and 1,086 in Hackleton, and the soil is marl and clay on a subsoil of limestone rock. The chief crops are wheat, of a very good milling quality, and oats and beans with pasture land, while to the south are numerous copses of Salcey Forest. The average height is 300 ft., rising gradually to about 400 ft. in the forest. A stream flowing towards Preston Deanery divided the civil parishes of Piddington and Hackleton before the amalgamation of the parishes in 1935, when the new civil parish of Hackleton was formed out of the hamlet of Hackleton and the old parishes of Piddington, Horton, and Preston Deanery.¹ A stone quarry near the village of Piddington is no longer worked, but was used for lime-burning till 1924 or 1925. At the end of the 19th century there was a shoe factory at Piddington, now an engineering shop for repairing agricultural machinery, and another at Hackleton, now the village hall. Football boots are still made by two men in Piddington for Messrs. Manfield & Sons of Northampton. Until recently there were many makers of pillow lace.

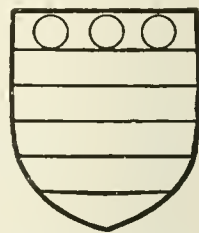
In 1086, Gilbert de Blosseville held 1 *MANORS* hide and 3 virgates in *PIDDINGTON* of the Countess Judith, which before the Conquest had been held by two of Burred's freemen, and it was claimed by the Bishop of Coutances and Winemar de Hanslope.² In the 12th century this was described as 1½ hides 1 virgate of King David's fee,³ and in 1235 as 1 knight's fee held of the honor of Huntingdon.⁴

The mesne lordship was attached to the manor of Harrold (Beds.) and passed from the family of de Blosseville to that of Morin and later to that of Grey of Ruthin.⁵ In 1284 the Master of the Hospital of St. John of Northampton held here 1 knight's fee of Ralph Morin⁶ and in 1316 was named with the Prior of St. Andrew's, Northampton, as lord of the vill of Pidding-

ton and Hackleton.⁷ On the death of John de Grey of Ruthin in 1323 his tenants were found to be the master of St. John's Hospital for half a fee and Elizabeth de Pakenham for half a fee.⁸ Two years later his son Roger de Grey held half a fee.⁹ In 1338 Robert de Crendon, clerk, had licence to alienate to the Hospital of St. John a messuage and land which the hospital held of Roger de Grey,¹⁰ and in 1349 Roger was still holding half a fee, extended at 40s. yearly.¹¹ The later history of Piddington is confused. Part of the fee may have been annexed to the manor of Hackleton and Piddington held in 1475-6 of Edward de Grey, Earl of Kent,¹² and part may be accounted for in the 200 acres of land, 100 acres of pasture, and 5 tofts in Piddington, Horton, and Hackleton, worth 5 marks, held to farm of the Hospital of St. John for the life of Elizabeth the widow of William de Preston, who died in 1487.¹³

William Walter died seized of a manor of Piddington in 1559,¹⁴ described as sometime belonging to Henry Morton, who may have inherited from Joan Morton the sister and heir of William de Preston.¹⁵ Five years later John son of William Walter and his wife Margaret conveyed the property to Francis Samwell¹⁶ who between 1579 and 1587 brought a suit against Robert Harlowe and his wife Martha, late the wife of Jasper Hartwell, concerning leases of the tithe barn and tithes in Piddington granted by the Master of St. John's Hospital.¹⁷ In 1639 there was a fine concerning the manor with land in Hackleton and Horton between Robert Samwell, esq., and William Lane, esq., grandson of Sir William Lane.¹⁸

At the time of Domesday the Countess Judith held in *HACKLETON* 2 hides of the soc of Yardley Hastings, and the Bishop of Coutances half a hide formerly held by Burred, but in 1086 by Winemar.¹⁹ The holding of the countess appears in the 12th-century survey as 1 hide held by Nortgold, 1 hide by the monks of Northampton, and half a hide by Turgis de Quenton.²⁰ The property of St. Andrew's Priory seems to have had



GREY OF RUTHIN. *Barry argent and azure with three roundels gules in the chief.*

¹ County of Northampton Review Order, 1935. ² *V.C.H. Northants.* i, 355a.

³ *Ibid.* 375b. ⁴ *Bk. of Fees*, 501. ⁵ Cf. Farrer, ii, 327-9, 348, 349; *V.C.H. Beds.* iii, 65.

⁶ *Feud. Aids*, iv, 7. In 1299 the hospital acquired land and rent in Piddington and elsewhere from William de Brampton: *Inq. a.q.d.* xxix, 10.

⁷ *Feud. Aids*, iv, 26. The Master of St. John's held chiefly in Piddington and the Prior of St. Andrew's in Hackleton. See *infra*.

⁸ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* vi, p. 314. The family of Pakenham held of de Grey in Bedfordshire: Farrer, ii, 329.

⁹ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* vi, 612. The other half fee may have been the manor of Hackleton, which John de Grey had apparently alienated to Ralph Basset in 1303: *De Banco R.* East. 14 Ric. II, m. 441.

¹⁰ *Cal. Pat.* 1334-8, p. 497; *Inq. a.q.d.* ccxi, 1.

¹¹ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* ix, 118, p. 122; *Cal. Close*, 1346-9, p. 582.

¹² *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 15 Edw. IV, no. 44.

¹³ *Cal. Inq. p.m. Hen. VII*, i, 529.

¹⁴ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), cxviii, 60.

¹⁵ *Cal. Inq. p.m. Hen. VII*, i, 529.

¹⁶ Feet of F. Northants. Hil. 6 Eliz.

¹⁷ Early Chan. Proc. (Ser. 2), bdle. 217, no. 34. Sir John Wake held a lease of tithes in Piddington and Hackleton in 1641: Bridges, i, 378.

¹⁸ Feet of F. Northants. Hil. 14 Chas. I.

¹⁹ *V.C.H. Northants.* i, 310b.

²⁰ *Ibid.* 376a.



MILTON MALZOR CHURCH, FROM THE SOUTH-EAST



PIDDINGTON CHURCH, FROM THE SOUTH-EAST

its foundation in the gift of demesne by Earl Simon I and his wife Maud;¹ later 2 virgates here were given to them by David de Quenton.² In 1284 the Hastings fee in Hackleton comprised 4 carucates, 2 held by Geoffrey de Sandiakier of the Prior of St. Andrew's and 2 by Henry de Hackleton of Edmund de Stokynge.³

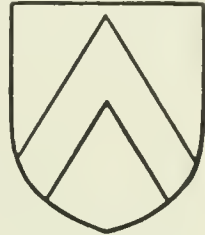
The holding of the Bishop of Coutances appears in the 12th-century survey as 8 small virgates of Walter fitz Winemar and $\frac{1}{2}$ hide of William de Lisurs of the fee of Olney.⁴ In 1274 Sarah de Scrimplingford held 3 virgates here of Gilbert de Preston with her $4\frac{1}{2}$ virgates in Horton.⁵ Ten years later these fees, belonging to the Countess of Arundel as of the honor of Chester, were held respectively as 6 virgates held by Henry de Aleot and Adam de Strempling, tenants of Laurence de Preston, and 5 virgates by Thomas de Lisurs tenant of Humfrey de Bassingburne.⁶ From this date the part held by the family of Preston appears to have become merged with their other lands of the Huntingdon honor. On the death of Ralph Basset of Drayton, in 1343, his tenant in Hackleton was Thomas de Lisurs.⁷

It is impossible to trace clearly the separate descents of land in Piddington and Hackleton from the 14th century. In 1313 John de Hastings died seised of a knight's fee in these two places held by Gilbert de Ekwel and Richard de Lutterington.⁸ Gilbert de Ekwel surrendered to the Prior of St. Andrew's his manor of Hackleton which he held by grant from Maud, widow of Robert de Ver, for term of the life of Maud.⁹ This must be the manor surrendered to the king as 'the manor of Hackleton' by the prior in 1538.¹⁰

In 1349 the tenants of the Hastings fee were Richard de Caysho, presumably holding for a term of years from St. Andrew's, and Hugh de Lutterington.¹¹ Hugh settled his property on himself, his wife Joan and their son Richard;¹² on the deaths of Joan and Richard, it was settled on Richard, brother of Hugh,¹³ but he also appears to have predeceased Hugh, who died of the pestilence in 1349 leaving a daughter Katharine, aged 3.¹⁴ In 1351 the escheator was ordered to answer for the issues of the manor of Hackleton late of Hugh de Lutterington, held of Yardley Hastings, because the Hastings heir was a minor.¹⁵ This manor, in an inquisition of 1360, is merely described as a messuage, 1 carucate and 8 half virgates in the hands of customers, and 10s. rent, in Hackleton, Piddington, and Horton, to which the heir was Katharine daughter of Hugh de Lutterington, aged 15.¹⁶ Possibly she married Andrew Brown of Claphorn, for in 1375 with his wife Katharine he conveyed his right in the manors

of Hackleton and Thorp Lubenham to John Parker of Olney and others.¹⁷ At the same time John Vincent of Rothwell quitclaimed these manors to the same trustees.¹⁸ In 1405 a dispute between a John Vincent of Rothwell and Thomas Newbottle¹⁹ as to the lands late of Hugh de Lutterington in the county was settled; Vincent was enfeoffed for life with remainder in tail to his daughter Lavinia, subject to a rent-charge of 14 marks to Newbottle and his heirs and on condition that Newbottle be allowed to sue for avoidance of the fine of 1376.²⁰ The estate probably included at least part of the Lisours lands, as from 1390 the Earls of Stafford, as heirs of the Bassets of Drayton, were said to hold the reversion of certain messuages and land in Horton, Hackleton, and Piddington after the death of John Vincent.²¹ The manors of Hackleton and Thorp Lubenham were named among the Basset lands in a case concerning the deeds of his property.²² Earl Humphrey, who was created Duke of Buckingham in 1444 and was killed at the battle of Northampton in 1460,²³ settled the manor upon his son John, afterwards Earl of Wiltshire, and his wife Constance, daughter of Sir Henry Green of Drayton.²⁴ On the death of their son Edward, Earl of Wiltshire, without issue, in 1499,²⁵ the manor reverted to Edward Stafford, Duke of Buckingham, great-grandson of Humphrey, but was forfeited to the Crown on his attainder and execution for high treason in 1521.²⁶

In the inquisition after his death²⁷ and the grant, a year later, to Roger Ratcliffe for life, it is styled 'the manor of Hackleton and Piddington', worth 100s. 4d. yearly.²⁸ The death of Roger Ratcliffe in 1537²⁹ resulted in a new grant to Thomas, Lord Cromwell, Keeper of the Privy Seal,³⁰ whose heir retained his property in spite of his attainder and execution in 1540.³¹ From his son Gregory who married Elizabeth, sister of Jane Seymour, the manor descended in 1551 to their son Henry,³² who married Mary daughter of John, Marquess of Winchester, and from whom it passed in 1575 to Maurice Osborne and his son Anthony.³³ The latter died seised of it in 1605, having added to his estate by purchase of property late of Thomas Chipsey and Robert Hartwell.³⁴ He was succeeded in turn by Maurice, who died in 1630,³⁵ and Edward,³⁶ his sons by his second wife Anne daughter of Thomas Catesby,



STAFFORD. Or a chevron gules.

¹ Dugdale, *Men.* v, 190. Cf. *Cal. Chart.* 1327-41, p. 119.

² Cott. MS. Vesp. E. xvii, fol. 71. Other grants comprised $\frac{1}{2}$ virgate from Alan de Alecote son of Helyas de Cogenhoe, 1 acre from Hugh son of John de Hackleton: *ibid.* fols. 70b, 71b.

³ *Feud. Aids.* iv, 7.

⁴ *P.C.H. Northants.* i, 376a.

⁵ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* ii, 69, p. 49.

⁶ *Feud. Aids.* iv, 6. Humphrey had inherited 3 virgates in Hackleton from his father in 1280: *Cal. Inq. p.m.* ii, 350. For the connexion between the families of Lisours and Bassingbourne see Abington, above, p. 66.

⁷ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* viii, 473.

⁸ *Ibid.* v, 412, p. 235.

⁹ MS. Cott. Vesp. E. xvii fol. 72. Farrer, ii, 414, calls her the wife of Gilbert. This not shown in Cott. Vesp. For other grants to the priory of St. Andrew in Piddington see Vesp. E. xvii, fols. 73 b-74 b.

¹⁰ *L. and P. Hen. VIII.* xiii (i), 404; Feet of F. Div. Co. Hil. 29 Hen. VIII.

¹¹ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* ix, 118.

¹² *Ibid.* no. 563.

¹³ *Ibid.* no. 301.

¹⁴ *Ibid.* x, 553.

¹⁵ *Cal. Fine R.* 1347-56, p. 295.

¹⁶ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* x, 553.

¹⁷ Feet of F. case 178, file 85, no. 687.

The clause of warranty includes the heirs of Katharine.

¹⁸ *Cal. Close.* 1374-7, p. 228.

¹⁹ His descent from Ralph de Clendon is given in *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 18 Ric. II, no. 9.

²⁰ *Cal. of Anet. Deeds.* v, A. 1298.

²¹ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 16 Ric. II, no. 27;

ibid. 18 Ric. II, no. 43; *ibid.* 22 Ric. II,

no. 46; 4 Hen. IV, no. 41.

²² Common Pleas R. 521, m. 441.

²³ G.E.C., *Peerage.*

²⁴ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 39 Hen. VI, no. 59;

ibid. 13 Edw. IV, no. 13; *ibid.* 15 Edw. IV, no. 44.

²⁵ *Cal. Inq. p.m. Hen. VIII.* ii, no. 796.

²⁶ G.E.C.; *Dict. Nat. Biog.*

²⁷ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), lxxx, 177.

²⁸ *L. and P. Hen. VIII.* iii (2), g. 2356 (16).

²⁹ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), lxxii, 67.

³⁰ *L. and P. Hen. VIII.* xiii (1), g. 1519

(2); g. 967 (54).

³¹ *Dict. Nat. Biog.*

³² *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), xciv, 35.

³³ Feet of F. Northants. East. 17 Eliz.; *Recov. R. East.* 17 Eliz. m. 523; *ibid.* Hil. 41 Eliz. m. 30. They acquired view of frankpledge in 1582: Feet of F. Northants. Trin. 24 Eliz.

³⁴ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), cclxxxviii, 128.

³⁵ *Ibid.* cccclviii, 100.

³⁶ He was succeeded by his son John in 1645: *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), dclxxvi, 88, for Kent.

A HISTORY OF NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

and the estate was eventually sold in 1691¹ by a Robert Osborne to Thomas Johnson of London who conveyed it to Thomas Mercer in 1706.² His grandson Thomas Mercer was in possession when Bridges wrote, and had here 'a very good mansion house'.³

Thomas Lynes was lord of the manor in 1847⁴ and Lewis Loyd, esq. in 1854.⁵ From him it had passed by 1864 to his son Baron Overstone,⁶ on the death of whose daughter, Lady Wantage, the estates were broken up and the manor lapsed.

Reference to a grange of Piddington, in 1632, occurs in a fine between Ralph Freeman and Basil Nicoll and Euseby and Mary Andrews and Robert Newdigate.⁷ According to Bridges this passed to the family of Wake⁸ and was sold to Dr. Eaton of Gloucester Hall, Oxford, whose two daughters possessed it at the time when he wrote.⁹

The church of *ST. JOHN THE CHURCH BAPTIST*¹⁰ consists of chancel, 15 ft.

9 in. by 14 ft. 9 in.; clerestoried nave, 55 ft. by 15 ft. 3 in.; north and south aisles about 9 ft. wide, south porch, and west tower, 9 ft. 6 in. square, all these measurements being internal. The width across nave and aisles is 37 ft. The tower is surmounted by a spire.

The building belongs generally to c. 1280-90, but has been very extensively restored and in part rebuilt. The clerestory appears to have been added in the 15th century and other work was then probably done which has since been removed. In 1877-8 the north aisle was rebuilt, the nave roof renewed, and the tower repaired;¹¹ in 1901 the south aisle and porch were rebuilt and the chancel and spire restored; and in 1907-8 there was a general restoration of the interior, which was newly seated. The older walling in chancel, clerestory, and tower is of limestone, but the aisles and porch were rebuilt in ironstone. The roof of the nave is of low pitch and covered with slates, the aisles are leaded, and the chancel and porch tiled. There are straight parapets to the nave and aisles. Internally the walls are of bare stone.

The chancel is without buttresses or strings and retains no ancient features. The modern pointed east window is of three cinquefoiled lights with vertical tracery, and the arch to the nave is also modern. The north and south walls are blank.

The nave arcades are of four bays, with pointed arches of two chamfered orders, on octagonal pillars and responds, with moulded capitals and bases. The arches have hood-moulds on the nave side only. There is about 5 ft. of straight wall at the east end of the south arcade, in which the upper doorway to the rood-loft (now blocked) remains.¹²

With one exception all the windows in the aisles are modern and square-headed, but a few ancient features have been retained. The plain pointed north doorway is the old one re-used, and in the usual position at the east end of the south aisle is a restored round-headed

cusped piscina with circular bowl. The pointed window at the east end of the north aisle is a late-14th-century one re-used, of two trefoiled lights with quatrefoil in the head: on its north side is an original bracket. The south doorway is modern, in the 13th-century style. The trefoiled head of a niche over the porch entrance is old.

The clerestory has five four-centred windows of two trefoiled lights on each side, with hood-moulds and double chamfered jambs. Below the present roof, on the east face of the tower, is the line of the original nave roof.

The tower is of three stages with moulded plinth and pairs of two-stage buttresses on the west side. The west doorway has an arch of three orders, the middle one with a hollow chamfer, the others moulded, on jamb-shafts with moulded capitals and bases: the hood-mould is keel-shaped. The arch is much restored and the outer shaft and capital on the north side are wanting. The two lower stages of the tower on the north and south are blank, but on the west side of the middle stage is a single tall narrow lancet window with hood-mould and chamfered jambs. The bell-chamber windows are of two tall trefoiled lancet lights under a containing hood-mould, the spandrel left solid. There is no vice. The arch to the nave is of three chamfered orders, the two outer dying out or continuous, the innermost on half-octagonal responds with moulded capitals.

The spire is of a somewhat uncommon design and has certain affinities with that of Denford.¹³ It belongs to the so-called 'timber type of spire worked in masonry' and rises from behind a parapet ornamented with trefoiled circles carried on a corbel table, with tall octagonal angle pinnacles. Between the lower sloping sides and the stone collars or bands is a short octagonal stage, and the lower gabled windows, which are on the cardinal sides, are of two lights with forked mullion. The small upper lights are placed in the intermediate faces of the spire, the angles of which are plain.

The font has a plain octagonal lead-lined bowl on eight clustered keel-shaped shafts with moulded bases and is of late-13th-century date.

The pulpit and other fittings are modern. The organ is at the east end of the north aisle.

In the chancel is a wall monument to Joseph Swain, of Northampton, apothecary (d. 1720), and in the south aisle and nave memorials to several members of the Mason family (1733 to 1809) and to John Glass, deputy ranger of Salcey Forest (d. 1775). The 'long grey square stone' with Norman-French inscription, noted by Bridges, is now covered by the modern tiled floor.¹⁴

There are six bells in the tower, a new treble by Taylor of Loughborough having been added in 1935 to the ring of five cast by the same founders in 1845-6.¹⁵

The silver plate consists of a cup and cover paten of

spire had been repaired in 1847.

¹² The masonry has been much disturbed below, but the quoins of what appears to have been the lower rood-stair doorway remain.

¹³ *V.C.H. Northants.* iii, 195.

¹⁴ *Ex. inf.* Rev. B. G. D. Clarke, vicar. The inscription is given in Bridges, *op. cit.* i, 378. The floor-slab of Richard Willoughby (d. 1700) is likewise so covered.

¹⁵ North, *Ch. Bells of Northants.* 382, where the inscriptions are given.

¹ Feet of F. Northants. Trin. 3 Wm. and Mary; Recov. R. Trin. 3 Wm. and Mary, m. 76.

² Feet of F. Northants. East. 5 Anne. Op. cit. i, 379.

⁴ The manors of Hackleton and Piddington were conveyed to him by the Rev. John Lynes in that year: Overstone Deeds (*penes* Northants. Rec. Soc.), no. 1833.

⁵ *Ibid.*

⁶ *Ibid.* and *Complete Peerage* (1895).

⁷ Feet of F. Northants. Mich. 8 Chas. I.

⁸ The Wakes were connected with Piddington from about 1550 (*V.C.H. Northants. Families*, 325 seqq.) until about 1920, when the Rev. Hereward Eyre Wake sold the estate.

⁹ Bridges, i, 378.

¹⁰ Bridges (*Northants.* i, 378) gives this dedication but adds in a footnote 'or probably St. Thomas Becket', presumably because the wake was held on 7 July, the Translation of St. Thomas.

¹¹ The cost was about £1,300. The

1570, and a bread-holder of 1789. There is also a plated flagon given in 1869.¹

The registers before 1812 are as follows: (i) baptisms and marriages 1574-1617, burials 1573-1617; (ii) all entries 1654-1721; (iii) baptisms and burials 1722-81, marriages 1744-55; (iv) baptisms 1782-1812, burials 1783-1812; (v) marriages 1754-1812. A volume containing entries between 1617 and 1654 appears to be missing. There is a gap in marriages 1721-44.

The advowson of Piddington was *ADVOUSON* given to the Hospital of St. John in Northampton by Philip son of William de Piddington in 1204,² and was retained until some time in the late 15th or early 16th century. The right of presentation was presumably granted for one turn to William Stretton in 1402 and to William Rushden of Northampton in 1455.³ On the latter occasion the presentee was William Rote, the master of the hospital, who received a papal dispensation to hold the benefice with his mastership. In the 13th century the rectory was valued at 18 marks. Before 1535 it had been appropriated to the use of the hospital, charged with the payment of a pension of 6s. 8d. to the Bishop of Lincoln, and the vicarage had become united to the church of Horton (q.v.) under the same incumbent.⁴

Judith Willoughby by will dated 26 *CHARITIES* October 1704 gave an annuity of £15 payable out of land in Horton and Piddington for apprenticing poor boys, sons of the inhabitants of Piddington. The charity is now regulated by a Scheme of the Charity Commissioners dated 6 March 1885 and administered by the rector of Wootton, the vicars of Horton and Hardingstone, the churchwardens of Piddington, and 4 trustees appointed by the parish councils of Hackleton and Piddington. The

annuity is regularly received and applied in apprenticing in accordance with the provisions contained in the Scheme.

Thomas Lynes by indenture dated 9 March 1858 conveyed several cottages with gardens and outbuildings, the rents to be applied towards the upkeep of the parish church. The cottages are now let and the rents after payment of repairs, &c., are applied by the churchwardens towards church expenses.

Poor's Allotments. On the Inclosure of Salcey Forest dated about 1828 an allotment of 4 acres was set out and awarded to the minister, churchwardens, and overseers for the use of the poor of this parish in lieu of their right to take sear and broken wood from the common. The land is let at a yearly rent of £6 10s. which is applied by the vicar and 4 trustees appointed by the parish councils of Piddington and Hackleton in doles to the poor and widows.

On the Inclosure of Piddington under an Act 22 Geo. III an allotment of 13 a. 1 r. 28 p. was awarded to trustees to cut the furze and thorns growing thereon and distribute the same among the poor inhabitants. The charity is now regulated by a Scheme of the Charity Commissioners dated 24 August 1923 which provides for a body of 5 trustees to administer the charity and to apply the rent of the land, amounting to £17 (approximately) yearly, in the purchase of fuel for distribution to the poor.

Victoria Memorial Fund. This fund was raised in 1897 as a memorial of the sixtieth year of the reign of Queen Victoria for the benefit of the aged poor of Piddington, Hackleton, Horton, and Preston Deanery. The charity is now regulated by a Scheme of the Charity Commissioners under the provisions of which the income amounting to about £1 2s. annually is applied by 4 trustees to the poor of the said parishes in kind.

PRESTON DEANERY

Preston, Prestone (xi cent.); Preston iuxta Northampton (xiv cent.); Preston by Pedyngton (xvi cent.); Preston Deanery (xviii cent.).

The parish of Preston Deanery, so called from having given its name to the deanery of Preston, lies 3½ miles south-east from Northampton on the road to Newport Pagnell. It contains 1,475 acres on a soil of marl and clay with subsoil of stone. The chief crops are wheat and barley and some land is pasture. The average height is 300 ft. with higher land towards the north. A winding stream flows from the south-west and ultimately through the centre of the parish where there is a weir. Preston Hall stood immediately to the north-west of the church, and was a large stuccoed stone building erected originally in 1716 by Sir Richard Newman. It was altered and extended several times, but after a fire in 1872 was rebuilt.⁵ The greater part of the house was pulled down in 1933 and the remainder refashioned. There are small woods near Preston Lodges in the north-east and Rookery farm in the south-east. When Bridges wrote the lordship was inclosed, con-

taining ten houses dispersed in the grounds and a wood called Preston park adjoined Salcey forest in the south.

In 1935 the parish was absorbed into the newly formed civil parish of Hackleton.⁶

In 1086 Winemar held in *PRESTON MANOR* 3 virgates and 3 acres of meadow of the Countess Judith, of the soc of Yardley Hastings,⁷ and 1 hide of the Bishop of Coutances, held under King Edward by Wlwara the widow.⁸ In the 12th-century survey this appears as 1 hide 1 virgate of King David's fee and a ½ hide of the fee of Olney, held by Walter fitz Winemar.⁹ King David's fee passed to the Hastings family as part of the honor of Huntingdon.¹⁰ The fee of Olney became attached to the honor of Chester¹¹ and after the death of Hugh d'Aubigny, Earl of Arundel, in 1243, it was apparently assigned to the pourparty of Cecily his fourth sister who married Roger de Mohaut.¹² Their son Robert died seised of it in 1275,¹³ after which date it appears to have been confused with the Hastings' fee in Preston,¹⁴ part of which had come to Henry de Hastings from the Chester

¹ Markham, *Ch. Plate of Northants.* 239.

² Feet of F. Northants. case 171, file 11, no. 178. A William de Piddington was master of the hospital in 1334 (*V.C.H. Northants.* ii, 158).

³ Bridges, i, 378.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ *Northants. N. & Q. N.S.* v, 193, where the building is described and a drawing by G. Clarke (c. 1836) reproduced.

⁶ County of Northampton Review Order, 1935.

⁷ *V.C.H. Northants.* i, 310b.

⁸ Ibid. 354b.

⁹ Ibid. 375b.

¹⁰ Farrer, *Honors and Knights' Fees*, ii, 296-301, 321-3.

¹¹ Ibid. 225-6.

¹² Ibid.

¹³ Ibid. 10; *Cal. Inq. p.m.* ii, 128, p. 84.

¹⁴ Farrer, ii, 226; *Cal. Inq. p.m.* v, 412, p. 235.

honor as inheritance of his wife Ada, a sister and heir of John, Earl of Chester.¹ Perhaps it was restored to the possession of Edward, Duke of Cornwall, Earl of Chester, after a complaint of usurpations of his fees in 1338.² On his death in 1377 he held a half fee in Preston late of Gilbert de Preston worth 50s. yearly³ and this was assigned as dower of his widow Joan in 1381.⁴ There is no clear reference to this fee again until the 16th century.⁵

Walter fitz Winemar who held both fees in the 12th century was succeeded by Gilbert de Preston before 1167⁶ and Gilbert by Michael de Preston before Michaelmas 1172.⁷ He died in or before 1187 when for two years the sheriff answered for £9 6s. from the farm of Preston, in the king's hands together with the heir of Michael.⁸ Walter son of Michael became sheriff in 1206 and in 1227 received a royal gift of six does from Salcey forest to stock his park at Preston.⁹ On his death in 1230¹⁰ his son Gilbert paid 100s. relief for his father's lands.¹¹ Between 1241 and 1243 2 fees in Preston and neighbouring parishes were held by Gilbert de Preston of Henry de Hastings as of his honor of Huntingdon.¹² At the same time he was holding a half fee in Preston of Hugh d'Aubigny as of his honor of Chester.¹³ Gilbert de Preston 'le seneschal' died in 1274 holding the manor of Preston including a foreign wood called 'Arnho' through which he had common and pannage in Salcey forest.¹⁴ He was succeeded by Laurence son of Sir William de Preston his brother.¹⁵ In the next year the Chester fee was described as a half fee in Preston, Hackleton, and Horton held by the heirs of Gilbert.¹⁶ In 1284 Laurence held one fee in Preston and Wootton of John de Hastings¹⁷ and in 1301 he settled the manor on himself for life with remainders to his sons Laurence and Thomas.¹⁸ Either he or his son Laurence in 1313 owed service for 2 knights' fees for land in Preston, Hackleton, Horton, Piddington, Quinton, and Wootton, as of the manor of Yardley Hastings,¹⁹ and was named as lord of the vill of Preston in 1316.²⁰ Laurence de Preston junior had certainly succeeded by 1329 when he claimed view of frankpledge and other rights by force of the 1301 settlement.²¹ On his death in 1347 the jurors returned that he held the manor by service of one knight's fee and suit at the court called 'Barronesmot' at Barton or Huntingdon each month and that Thomas de Preston, knight, was his son and heir.²² In this year Thomas brought a suit against Sir George de Longueville and

Isabel his wife, the daughter of Laurence de Preston and Joan de Moleton,²³ concerning 18 messuages of his manor, and in 1348 George de Longueville was named with Thomas de Preston as tenant of 1½ fees in Preston and elsewhere.²⁴ From Thomas the manor descended to his son Hugh and grandson Wynmer.²⁵ In 1429 Wynmer 'late lord of Preston' and his mother Eleanor quitclaimed their right in the manor to John Hertwelle of Hartwell and Henry Hertwelle of Piddington.²⁶ Six years later when Wynmer's goods were extended for a debt of £500 to John and Henry Hertwelle he was found to be seised of a rent-charge of 20 marks on the manor of Preston.²⁷ John Hertwell was succeeded by his son Thomas and grandson Sir William who died in 1503 leaving Catherine his wife, daughter of John Boughton of Tiddington, co. Bedford, in possession.²⁸ From her it passed to their son John in 1512.²⁹ Some years later an unsuccessful claim to the manor was made by Richard Rudhull, in right of Sybil his wife, and John Brudenell as descendants of Alice and Eleanor sisters of Wynmer de Preston, on the plea that Wynmer was seised in fee tail and that the right of John Hertwell was based solely on a debt of £500 long since paid.³⁰ In 1527 John Hertwell made a settlement on his eldest son William at his marriage with Elizabeth daughter of John Barber.³¹ They were both dead by 1545 when a marriage was arranged between their son Jasper, a minor, and Martha daughter of John Tregian whose dower of the lands in Preston had to be assured by an Act of Parliament.³² The family of Lane held property in Preston at this time and in 1569 Jasper Hertwell and his son Robert assigned to Sir Robert Lane all the land north of a brook running through the manor, but later this share was acquired by Jasper in return for an annuity.³³ On the death of Jasper in 1585 the jurors returned that the manor was held of the Queen for 3 knights' fees, of which 2 were held as of the honor of Huntingdon, ½ fee as of the honor of Chester and the remainder as of Basset's fee.³⁴ In 1620 the property passed from Sir Robert, son of Jasper, to Sir Clement Edmonds, a clerk of the Council of James I,³⁵ who was succeeded in 1622 by his son Charles.³⁶ He married Elizabeth



HERTWELL. *Sable a hart's head caboshed argent with a cross formy or between the horns.*

¹ *Cal. Close*, 1237-42, p. 369.
² *Cal. Pat.* 1338-40, p. 34.
³ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 2 Ric. II, no. 57.
⁴ *Cal. Close*, 1377-81, p. 443.
⁵ *Ct. of Wards, Inq. p.m.* file 21, no. 98.
⁶ *Pipe Roll Soc.* xi, 121. A grant by Walter fitz Winemar to the priory of St. Andrew, Northampton, was confirmed by his heirs Gilbert and Hugh brother of Gilbert, and successively by Michael de Preston, Walter his son, and Gilbert son of Walter: *Cott. MS. Vesp. E.* xvii, fols. 55-6, 69-70. For this family see Farrer, i, 95-7.
⁷ *Pipe Roll Soc.* xviii, 36. This Michael is said to have been the brother of Walter fitz Winemar: Farrer, ii, 322.
⁸ *Pipe Roll Soc.* xxxvii, 104; *Pipe R. I Ric. I* (ed. J. Hunter), 104.
⁹ *Cal. Close*, 1227-31, p. 6.
¹⁰ *Ibid.* p. 372.
¹¹ *Excerpta e Rot. Fin.* (Rec. Com.), i, 204.
¹² *Cal. Close*, 1237-42, p. 369; *Bk. of*

Fees, ii, 938.
¹³ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* ii, 69; *Cal. Fine R.* i, 16.
¹⁴ *Ibid.* Shortly after this date the jurors inquiring into the liberties of the King found that the men of Laurence de Preston and Gilbert his predecessor had for ten years withheld toll in Northampton because they were tenants of the honor of Huntingdon: *Hund. R.* (Rec. Com.), ii, 2.
¹⁵ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* ii, 128, p. 84.
¹⁶ *Feud. Aids*, iv, 7.
¹⁷ *Feet of F.* case 175, file 58, no. 399; *Plac. de Quo Warr.* (Rec. Com.), 563.
¹⁸ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* v, 412, p. 235.
¹⁹ *Feud. Aids*, iv, 27.
²⁰ *Plac. de Quo Warr.* (Rec. Com.), 563.
²¹ *Cf. Hund. R.* (Rec. Com.), ii, 8.
²² *Cal. Inq. p.m.* ix, 27. He had demised the manor to Roger, Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield, for life at a rent of £20.
²³ *De Banco R.* 350, m. 307 d.; *ibid.* 352, m. 130 d.; *ibid.* 354, m. 154. The defendants cited a settlement made by Sir Laurence de Preston to his son Laurence

and Joan daughter of John de Moleton.
²⁴ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* ix, 118, p. 122.
²⁵ *Early Chan. Proc. bdle.* 438, no. 10; 561, no. 54.
²⁶ *Cal. Close*, 1429-35, pp. 28, 32. This John was the son of Henry Hertwell by Mary daughter of Sir Laurence de Preston: *Bridges, Hist. of Northants.* i, 380.
²⁷ *Chan. Extents on debts*, file 63, no. 18.
²⁸ *Bridges*, i, 381; *Cal. Inq. p.m. Hen. VII*, ii, 752.
²⁹ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), lxxix, 187.
³⁰ *Early Chan. Proc. bdle.* 438, no. 10; 561, no. 54.
³¹ *L. and P. Hen. VIII*, xx (2), g. 850 (11).
³² *Ibid.*
³³ *Feet of F. Northants. East.* 11 Eliz.; *ibid.* Trin. 11 Eliz.; *ibid.* Mich. 33-4 11 Eliz.; *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), ccvii, 103.
³⁴ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), ccvii, 103.
³⁵ *Dict. Nat. Biog.*; *Feet of F. Northants. East.* 18 Jas. I; *Recov. R. East.* 18 Jas. I, m. 72.
³⁶ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), cccxcv, 99.

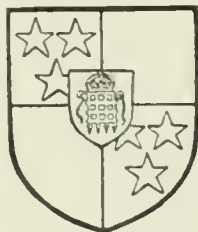
daughter of Sir Henry Martyn and died in 1652 leaving his son Henry as his heir.¹ Eight years later William Terringham, Lieutenant of Salcey forest, secured from Henry Edmonds confirmation of hunting rights in Preston park previously held by Sir John Wake.² When Henry Edmonds died in 1701 the estate descended to his grandson Sir Richard Newman, bart., in right of his mother Grace who had married Richard Newman of Evercreech Park, co. Somerset.³ Sir Richard died in 1721 and was succeeded in turn by his son Sir Samwell Newman who died unmarried in 1747 and his daughter Frances who also died unmarried in 1775. Her estates passed to her cousin Charles Toll of Preston Deanery and his brother the Rev. Ashburnham Philip Toll of Thornbury Park, co. Gloucester, the latter of whom took the surname and arms of Newman.⁴ A Charles Newman presented to the living in 1798⁵ and in 1814 Charles Newman senior and junior were vouches in a recovery of the manor and advowson to Giles Bleasdale.⁶ He was perhaps a scoffee for purposes of a conveyance to Langham Christie who is named in a fine of 1815.⁷ From him it had passed by 1854 to William Langham Christie, esquire, J.P., and is still owned by this family.

The church of *ST. PETER AND ST. PAUL* consists of chancel, 24 ft. by 13 ft. 6 in.; nave, 29 ft. 3 in. by 19 ft. 3 in.; and west tower, 13 ft. 6 in. *CHURCH* square, all these measurements being internal. The total inside length of the building is 77 ft.

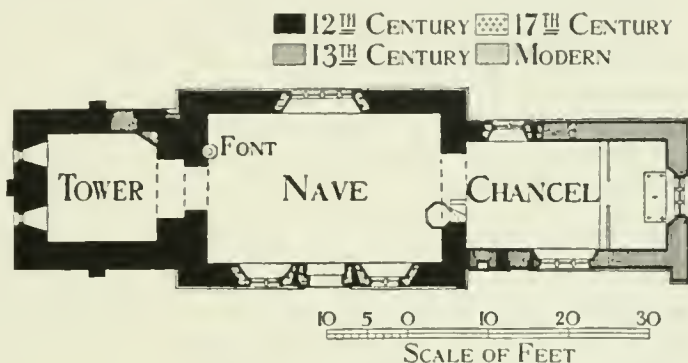
The walling throughout is of limestone rubble, with ironstone dressings in chancel and nave. The roofs are modern and covered with slates,⁸ without parapets, and internally (except in the tower) the walls are plastered. The building is substantially of 12th-century date, the tower, the walls of the nave, and the west part of the chancel being of that period. The chancel appears to have been extended to its present length in the 13th century, and in the 14th century new windows were inserted in the upper stage of the tower on three sides and a new parapet added. Bridges states that in the reigns of Elizabeth and James I the church lay in a very ruinous condition, Jasper Hertwell and his son Sir Robert having, 'as it is said', sold the lead and bells, pulled down the body⁹ and converted it to a profane use, but it was afterwards repaired by Charles Ed-

monds,¹⁰ son of Sir Clement. The 'repair', which must have been of an extensive character, was probably carried out soon after the death of Sir Clement in 1622, and the present south doorway, the windows of the nave, and that on the north side of the chancel are of this period.

The chancel has a chamfered plinth and a single buttress of two stages at the south-east angle. The east window is a modern pointed one of three cinquefoiled lights and vertical tracery, set within the opening of a large round-headed window apparently inserted in 1808, that date together with the initials of Charles Newman being on a panel above the keystone. At the west end of the south wall is a tall late-13th-century single-light window with trefoil head, divided nearly at mid-height by a transom, the whole of which is now blocked and on the inside completely concealed by the plaster.¹¹ East of this is a blocked round-headed priest's doorway, with chamfered jambs and head,¹² which probably belongs to the original chancel. On the north side the chancel is lighted by a square-headed 17th-



NEWMAN. Quarterly sable and argent with three molets argent in the first and fourth quarters, and the augmentation of a scutcheon gules charged with a portcullis crowned or.



PLAN OF PRESTON DEANERY CHURCH

century window of two rounded lights placed high in the wall, and on the south by a modern three-light window of the same type. To the east of the latter are traces of a former window and in the north wall a blocked 17th-century doorway. No ancient ritual arrangements now remain, but the 13th-century trefoil-headed piscina recess is inserted in the north wall of the tower outside, at its east end, close to the ground. The plain semicircular chancel arch is square on both edges, but is completely covered with plaster. It springs from chamfered and hatched impost mouldings, which are continued along the east wall of the nave. The opening is 8 ft. 6 in. wide. The floors of chancel and nave are level.

The nave is lighted by a square-headed window of four rounded lights in the middle of the north wall, and by two windows of the same character, but of two lights, on the south side, one on each side of the doorway. There are two steps down from the churchyard at the doorway, which has a flat four-centred head and

been completely dismantled and probably unroofed.

¹⁰ Bridges, *Hist. of Northants.* i, 381.

¹¹ *Assoc. Arch. Soc. Rep.* xxix, 441. It is simply chamfered all round and is without hood-mould. The lower part, which is 2 ft. 5½ in. high, forms a low-side window. The total height of the window is 6 ft. 2 in., and its width 1 ft. 3 in.

¹² The head is in two stones, and is without hood-mould.

¹ Bridges, i, 381; M.I. in church.

² Bridges, i, 381. In the 18th century Sir Baldwin Wake had here an estate and house built by his father Sir William when he left Piddington: Bridges, i, 380. See also Feet of F. Northants. 111. 20 Jas. I; *ibid.* Trin. 6 Geo. I.

³ Bridges, i, 381; Burke, *Landed Gentry* (1906), ii, 1230. Henry Edmonds and his mother were parties to a fine concerning the manor in 1676: Feet of F. Northants. East. 28 Chas. II.

⁴ Burke, *Landed Gentry* (1906), ii, 1231.

⁵ Inst. Bks. (P.R.O.).

⁶ *Recov. R. Mich.* 55 Geo. III, ro. 188.

⁷ Feet of F. Northants. Mich. 56 Geo. III.

⁸ In Bridges' time (c. 1720) the nave was leaded and the chancel tiled.

⁹ The statement that the body of the church was 'pulled down' appears to be an exaggeration, but points to its having

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straight hood-mould.¹ Like the chancel, the nave has a modern open-timbered roof, but of four bays.

The 12th-century tower, which is about 50 ft. high, is of massive construction, strengthened by a flat buttress² in the middle of each face stopping at the lower part of the top stage (except on the east side) where it weathers back. On the east side, where the two 12th-century tall, round-headed, bell-chamber windows remain, the buttress is taken up between them, weathering back level with their heads, as no doubt was the case originally on all four sides, but late in the 14th century pointed windows of two trefoiled lights with quatrefoil in the head were substituted for the original windows on the other faces. Elsewhere in the tower the 12th-century windows remain: on the west side of the ground stage there is one on each side of the buttress, the internal splay of each taken round the head; on the south a similar window on the east of the buttress, and on the north one on the west of the buttress. There is a blocked round-headed doorway near the east end of the north wall. These windows and the doorway are of very plain character, without hood-moulds, their heads in several stones, and with square jambs. On the east face of the tower is the line of a former high-pitched nave roof, the ridge of which was above the sills of the bell-chamber windows. There is no vice. The semicircular tower arch is obscured by plaster; it springs from moulded imposts with bold edge rolls and is apparently rather later than the arch of the chancel.³

The original roof of the tower was at some time replaced by a temporary slated covering fixed within the walls below the bell-chamber windows,⁴ and from this and other causes the tower fell into disrepair. A new roof was erected in 1927 and certain other repairs effected, but the proper restoration of the tower was unfortunately not undertaken at that time.

The font stands against the west wall of the nave; it has an octagonal cup-shaped bowl and is apparently of 18th-century date. The pulpit is modern.

In the floor of the chancel is a brass plate with accompanying figures of Sir Clement Edmonds (d. 1622) and his wife,⁵ but the alabaster monument mentioned by Bridges⁶ no longer remains. There are also grave-slabs to Charles Edmonds (d. 1661), and Henry Edmonds (d. 1701), and to Richard Newman, aged fifteen (d. 1711), son of Sir Richard Newman of Fifehead-Magdalen, Dorset; and marble wall memorials in the chancel to Purbeck Langham (d. 1773) and his wife Elizabeth Lawton (d. 1756), Daniel Beat Christie (d. 1809) and other members of the Christie family, and Charles Newman (d. 1821).

The tower contains one bell cast by Henry Penn of Peterborough in 1710.⁷

The plate consists of a silver-gilt cup and paten of 1860 given in the following year by the Rev. J. H. Brookes, rector.⁸

The registers before 1812 are as follows: (i) all entries 1676-1780; (ii) marriages 1754-1812; (iii) baptisms and burials 1783-1812.

The church of Preston was given *ADVOWSON* to the priory of St. Andrew in Northampton by Gilbert de Preston in the middle of the 12th century and confirmed by his successors.⁹ After the Dissolution the right of patronage remained with the Crown until granted by Elizabeth to John Doddington of London and John Jackson in 1559.¹⁰ On the death of Jasper Hartwell in 1584 it was found that he had purchased the rectory and advowson from Sir Robert Lane who had bought it from John, Stephen, and William Jeffrey and John Basse.¹¹ Since that date it has been held by the owners of the manor and it is at present in the gift of John Christie, esquire.

QUINTON

Quintone (xi cent.); Quenton (xii cent.); Quenyn-ton (xiii cent.); Quyn-ton, Queen-ton (xiv cent.).

The parish of Quinton covers an area of 1,225 acres. The soil varies from strong clay to yellow marl, and in some parts it is of a light gravelly nature; the subsoil is mainly rock. The chief crops produced are wheat and barley, a fair proportion of the parish being devoted to pasture. In 1931 the population was 92.

In 1086 the Countess Judith held the *MANORS* manor of Yardley Hastings to which pertained 1 hide and 3 virgates of land in *QUINTON*.¹² The overlordship of this estate descended with Yardley Hastings (q.v.). At the time of the Northamptonshire Survey (12th cent.) William Peverel held 4 small virgates in Quinton¹³ which are

not traceable in the Domesday survey. The overlordship of this land passed with the honor of Peverel to the house of Lancaster, and the fee itself was held by the family of Preston of Preston Deanery (q.v.) until 1428, when Wynmer de Preston, the last of his line, was holding it.¹⁴

Under the Countess Judith $\frac{1}{2}$ hide and 3 virgates in Quinton were held by Winemar the Fleming,¹⁵ the other $\frac{1}{2}$ hide being held by two socmen.¹⁶ At the time of the Northamptonshire Survey David and Philip held $1\frac{1}{2}$ hides in Quinton of the honor of Huntingdon, while Gilbert held 4 small virgates of the honor of Peverel.¹⁷ Walter de Preston, descendant of Winemar, held the vill of Quinton in 1216 when he forfeited it on joining the rebel barons.¹⁸ He returned to

¹ The windows and doorway, as already stated, belong to the 17th-century restoration. The windows have hood-moulds and chamfered jambs and mullions: that on the north side is deeply recessed, the jambs having a double chamfer.

² The buttresses project 10 in. and measure 2 ft. on the face.

³ It would appear that the tower was not begun until after the completion of the nave, its east wall being built against the wall of the nave. The arch is 7 ft. wide on the tower side and 5 ft. 4 in. towards the nave.

⁴ *N'ton Independent*, 18 July 1925.

⁵ Hudson, *Mont. Brasses of Northants.* where it is figured. The plate is 2 ft. 1½ in. by 10½ in. with Latin inscription, and the figures are 12 in. high. The man is bare-headed and wears an ornamental suit of armour.

⁶ *Hist. of Northants.* i, 382.

⁷ North, *Ch. Bells of Northants.* 387.

⁸ Markham, *Ch. Plate of Northants.* 245. The pieces are of medieval design. In 1843 there were 'a pretty good silver cup with cover, which was used for a paten, and a metal plate'.

⁹ Cott. Vesp. E. xvii, fols. 69-70; Harl. Chart. 43 H. 11; Bridges, i, 382.

¹⁰ Pat. 2 Eliz. pt. 15, m. 35.

¹¹ Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), ccvii, 103.

¹² *V.C.H. Northants.* i, 351, 354.

¹³ *Ibid.* 375.

¹⁴ *Bk. of Fees*, i, 495; ii, 333; *Cal. Inq. p.m.* iii, p. 296; *Feud. Aids*, iv, 42.

¹⁵ *V.C.H. Northants.* i, 354.

¹⁶ *Ibid.* 351.

¹⁷ *Ibid.* 375. Gilbert was probably Gilbert de Preston, grandson of Winemar.

¹⁸ *Rot. Lit. Claus.* (Rec. Com.), i, 258.

his allegiance the next year, however, his lands being restored to him.¹ His son Gilbert de Preston held 2 fees in Quinton and elsewhere of the honor of Huntingdon.² This appears as one knight's fee in Quinton held by Laurence de Preston in 1284³ of John de Hastings, who had also 2 carucates in Quinton held by Edmund de Stoginges and of him by Humphrey de Haytinge.⁴ As Quinton in this return is miswritten 'Suenton' it is possible that 'Haytinge' is a blunder for Hastang and that Humphrey was the father of Philip de Hastang⁵ who held of John de Hastings a messuage and 150 acres in Quinton, which is described in 1316 as a manor,⁶ in free socage by service of a $\frac{1}{2}$ d. rent yearly. On Philip's death in 1317 his wife Alice inherited the land for her life, with remainder to her daughter Beatrice who came of age in 1329.⁷ She married Thomas son of John de Longueville and in 1349 George Longueville, whose wife was daughter of Sir Laurence de Preston, and Thomas Preston held land in Quinton of the Earl of Pembroke.⁸ Thomas Preston, son of Laurence, was still in possession of the land in Quinton in 1376,⁹ but by 1428 it had passed to John Longueville and Walter Bald.¹⁰ These estates came into the possession of John Dyve, who had married Elizabeth sister and heir of John Longueville,¹¹ and who levied a fine on *BALD'S MANOR* in Quinton in 1464.¹²

The Philip who occurs in the Northamptonshire Survey was probably father of John son of Philip de Quenton who in 1199 exchanged with Walter de Quenton land in Cotes for other land in Quinton.¹³ Walter de Quenton died seised of the vill, held of Walter de Preston, in 1216. The wardship of his heir Philip was assigned to Philip de St. Helen to whom the king had granted all the lands forfeited by Walter de Preston on his rebellion.¹⁴ The family of Quenton continued to hold land in the parish of the Preston family, Philip de Quenton holding a knight's fee there in 1284 of John Fauvey who held of Laurence de Preston.¹⁵ Philip de Quenton, probably his son, was one of the two chief tenants in Quinton in 1316,¹⁶ and a Sir William conveyed the reversion of the manor, after his death and that of his wife Isabel, to Edmund fitz John and Richard de Leicester in 1369.¹⁷ He died in 1375, his wife surviving him,¹⁸ but on her death the manor passed to Sir William's heir Laurence Dyve, the son of his sister Margaret,¹⁹ in spite of the fine of 1369. His grandson John Dyve married Elizabeth daughter of Sir George Longueville²⁰ and had also possession of Bald's Manor in 1464, and for the next two hundred years the Dyves were the chief landowners in Quinton.

Sir John Dyve the grandson of John died in September 1536 having settled the manor of Quinton on his younger son John in tail male.²¹ He died without heirs on 4 October 1545 and Quinton passed to Lewis Dyve

the son and heir of his elder brother William who had predeceased him.²² Sir Lewis died in 1592 having settled Quinton on his son John soon after his marriage with Douglas daughter of Sir Anthony Denny.²³ John Dyve was about 50 years old in 1592 and died in December 1607 holding the manor of William, Lord Compton, as of his manor of Yardley Hastings in free socage.²⁴ His son and heir Lewis, who was a minor at the time of his father's death, sold the manor to William Lane in 1641.²⁵ On his death in 1649 the manor was sold in accordance with the provisions of his will, being purchased by John Langham of London, merchant.²⁶ From the Langham family it passed to George, Earl of Halifax, the owner in 1721.²⁷ It remained with the Montagues until about 1787,²⁸ but by the early years of the 19th century it had come into the possession of Robert Henry Gunning,²⁹ and has been held since by that family, Sir Charles Vere Gunning, bart., being the present lord of the manor.



DYVE. *Gules a fesse dancetty or between three scallops ermine.*

The church of *ST. JOHN THE CHURCH BAPTIST* consists of chancel, 19 ft. 9 in.

by 15 ft. 3 in.; clerestoried nave, 32 ft. 4 in. by 13 ft. 6 in.; south aisle, 8 ft. 3 in. wide; south porch, and west tower, 11 ft. by 10 ft. 8 in., all these measurements being internal. The width across nave and aisle is 24 ft. There was formerly a transeptal chapel on the north side, the roof-line of which remains at the east end of the nave wall outside.³⁰

The greater part of the church as it now exists belongs to the 13th century, but it has developed from a late-12th-century building which had an aisleless nave the same size as the present, and of this earlier structure the south-west angle and the west window, now opening into the lower stage of the tower, still remain; this window is a tall lancet, the wide internal splay of which is taken round the head in semicircular form. Some time in the 13th century a south aisle and tower were added and the chancel probably rebuilt, and in the 15th century the tower was heightened by the addition of a new bell-chamber stage, the clerestory erected, and new windows inserted in the aisle. In the 18th century the chancel and porch were remodelled in their present form.

The roofs of the chancel and nave are slated, the aisle leaded, and there are straight parapets throughout. The walls of the chancel and of the lower part of the tower are plastered internally, but elsewhere the plaster has been removed. There are flat plaster ceilings to the chancel and nave. The aisle roof is open.

The western part of the chancel to a distance of 7 ft. 6 in. apparently retains its original walling, but

¹ *Rot. Lit. Claus.* (Rec. Com.), i, 297.

² *Cal. Inq. p.m.* ii, 69.

³ *Feud. Aids*, iv, 7.

⁴ *Ibid.*

⁵ Philip was son of Humphrey de Hastang and Cicely: *Cal. Pat.* 1301-7, p. 499.

⁶ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* v, 602.

⁷ *Ibid.* vi, 96; vii, 251. She was born at Quinton in her father's manor in a chamber at the upper end of the hall towards the west.

⁸ *Ibid.* ix, 118, p. 122.

⁹ *Cal. Close*, 1374-7, p. 189.

¹⁰ *Feud. Aids*, iv, 42.

¹¹ Baker, *Hist. of Northants.* i, 83.

¹² Feet of F. Northants. 4 Edw. IV, file 96, no. 7.

¹³ *Pipe R. Soc.* xxiv, no. 247.

¹⁴ *Rot. Lit. Claus.* (Rec. Com.), i, 258.

¹⁵ *Feud. Aids*, iv, 7. No other reference to a Favel mesne lordship is known.

¹⁶ *Ibid.* 27.

¹⁷ Feet of F. Northants. 42 Edw. III, file 84, no. 608.

¹⁸ Chan. Inq. p.m. 48 Edw. III (1st nos.), 54.

¹⁹ Baker, *Hist. of Northants.* i, 82.

²⁰ *Ibid.*

²¹ Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), lix, 22.

²² *Ibid.* lxxv, 39.

²³ *Ibid.* ccxxxvii, 120.

²⁴ *Ibid.* cccix, 171.

²⁵ *Recov. R. East.* 17 Chas. I, ro. 2.

²⁶ *Ibid.* Hil. 1649, ro. 24; Bridges, *Hist. Northants.* i, 384.

²⁷ Bridges, loc. cit.

²⁸ *Recov. R. East.* 29 Geo. III, ro. 172.

²⁹ *Ibid.* Hil. 59 Geo. III, ro. 29.

³⁰ It was standing in Bridges' time. He describes it as 'a cross-ile or chantry chapel tiled, in the north side': *Hist. of Northants.* i, 384.

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beyond this, where it contracts in width, is of 18th-century date. It has a plain flat-arched east window and similar windows north and south. The angles are rounded. The older walling, in which there are no windows, was refaced at this time and the whole of the interior refashioned in the style of the day. No ancient features remain.

The pointed 13th-century chancel arch is of two wide chamfered orders with hood-mould, the inner order springing from half-octagonal responds with moulded capitals and bases, the outer from moulded imposts. The upper edge of the abacus of the capital is left square, but the double roll of the base moulding points to the latter half of the century, though it does not occur elsewhere in the building.

The nave arcade is of three bays with pointed arches

the usual position, and a bracket on the south side of the east window. At the north-east corner is the opening of a former squint.

The clerestory walls rise high above the chancel, the line of whose former roof remains at the east end. There are three four-centred windows of two trefoiled lights on the south side and two on the north, to the west of the former transept. The porch was refashioned after the manner of the chancel, being extended outward and contracted in width. Over the pointed outer doorway, cut in the parapet, is the word 'Populo', and in a similar position at the east end of the chancel 'Deo'.

The original 13th-century tower is of three stages, above which, without the intervention of a string, is the later bell-chamber stage with battlemented parapet.

The windows of the original bell-chamber, which are of two uncusped pointed lights under a containing arch with hood-mould, remain on all four sides; they have square jambs and mullions and solid spandrels. Below, the walls are blank. There are pairs of buttresses at the western angles, those facing north and south of a single stage, the others larger and of two stages. The windows of the upper 15th-century stage are four-centred and of two cinquefoiled lights. The tower opens to the nave by a pointed arch of two chamfered orders, the inner order dying into the wall

and the outer continuous. Above the arch is the widely splayed window already referred to. The tower has a pyramidal slated roof with vane. There is no vice.

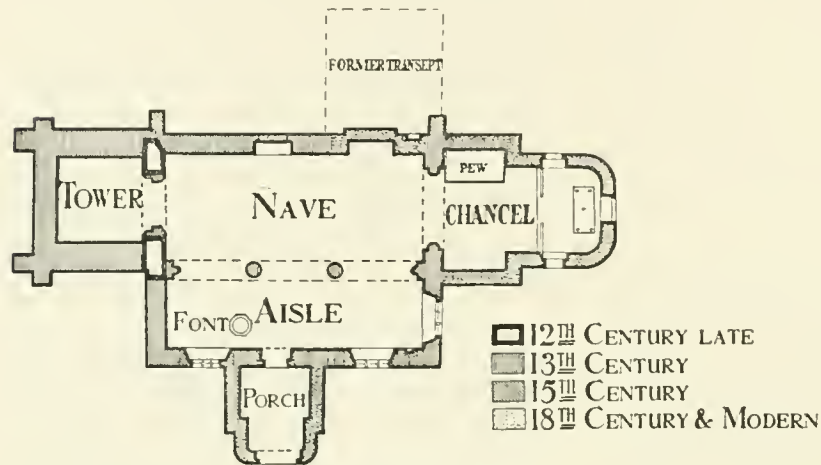
The pulpit and font are modern, the latter of Caen stone in the Gothic style.³ There is no ancient glass.⁴

On the north wall of the nave are recently executed tablets in memory of George Battisson (d. 1700), Elizabeth Battisson (d. 1725), and John Battisson (d. 1737),⁵ and to two men of the parish who fell in the war of 1914-18.

There are two bells in the tower, the first by Matthew Bagley 1682, and the second by Thomas Russell of Wootton, Bedfordshire, 1719.⁶

The plate consists of a silver-plated cup and paten (the cup of modern medieval design), and a plated flagon inscribed 'Hawley Church'.⁷

The registers before 1812 are as follows: (i) all entries 1648-95; (ii) 1695-1721; (iii) 1721-83; (iv) marriages 1755-79; (v) marriages 1783-1812; (vi) baptisms 1784-1812; (vii) burials 1784-1812.



PLAN OF QUINTON CHURCH

of two chamfered orders springing from circular pillars with moulded capitals and bases and from keel-shaped responds. The base mouldings are on a chamfered plinth, with a hollow between the rolls; the plinth of the west respond is square on plan.¹ Near the east end of the north wall of the nave is the blocked arch to the destroyed transept, and beyond it, well above the spring of the chancel arch, a square-headed rood-loft doorway, now blocked, the stairs to which may have led from the transept. The pointed north doorway, which is of a single chamfered order, is walled up. A small trefoil-headed window, now blocked, and seen only from the outside at the east end of the north wall, was probably moved to its present position after the demolition of the transept.²

The aisle is without buttresses or string-course, and the south doorway, as well as that of the porch, appears to be part of the 18th-century remodelling. The four-centred 15th-century windows are of three cinquefoiled lights, two in the south wall and one at the east end, the west wall being blank. There is a piscina with arched cinquefoiled head and circular bowl in

¹ The pillars are 19 in. diam., and the arches spring at a height of 6 ft. 8 in. above the floor.

² *Assoc. Arch. Soc. Rep.* xxix, 442, where it is classed as a low-side window. In its present position it would have opened into the transept. The sill is about 2 ft. above the ground.

³ It is in memory of John Thomas

Smith, who died in 1881. There is also a small 18th-century font.

⁴ In Bridges' time there were 'two rude pictures painted on the glass' in the middle window of the aisle: *Hist. of Northants.* i, 384, where they are briefly described.

⁵ There is an imperfect floor-slab to John Battisson in the chancel.

⁶ North, *Ch. Bells of Northants.* 388,

where the inscriptions are given. In 1552 there were two great bells and a sanctus bell.

⁷ Markham, *Ch. Plate of Northants.* 246. Hawley is a district in the parishes of Yateley and Ashe, Hants. In 1843 there was a small Elizabethan cup with cover, and a small silver plate.

About the end of the 11th century Simon, Earl of Northampton, and Maud his wife gave the advowson of the church of Quinton and the *ADWOWSON* tithe to the priory of St. Andrew, Northampton.¹ An annual pension of 6s. 8d. which the priory claimed from the incumbent at the beginning of the 13th century² was still being

paid in 1535.³ On the dissolution of the priory the advowson fell to the Crown, and is now in the gift of the Lord Chancellor.

The only charity enjoyed by the parish *CHARITY* is £5 yearly left for the use of the poor by Sir R. H. Gunning, bart., of Horton, who died in September 1862.

ROTHERSTHORPE

Trop Advocati (1220); Torp (xi-xiii cent.); Thorpe, Throp (xiii-xviii cent.); Thrupp (xvi-xviii cent.); Troupe, Throope (xvi cent.); Ritheres- (xiii-xvi cent.); Rethres- (xiv cent.); Rother- (xiv cent. onwards); Ruddis- (xvi cent.); Ryther-, Rethes- (xvi-xvii cent.); Reresthorp (xix cent.).

The civil parish has an area of 1,275 acres of land and water. The soil is mixed, the subsoil Oxford Clay, the chief crops turnips and barley. The population of 240⁴ must have been stationary since the early 18th century, when there were about 54 houses, including two set apart for the poor.⁵

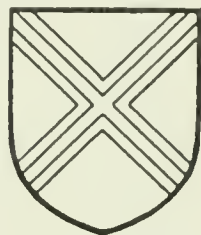
The old-world village stands high among its poplar trees and with its saddle-back church tower to the south, and quaint cottages, is the delight of artists. Behind the manor-house at the entrance to the village is a circular stone dovecote, probably of 17th-century date, with leaded roof and octagonal wooden cupola.⁶ The village is divided into two parts, one north and one south of the Berry, an entrenched space of about 4 acres. The parish slopes upward from 214 ft. in the north to 300 ft. in the south-east. It is traversed by Banbury Lane going south-west and the Northampton canal in the north.

ROTHERSTHORPE lay in Colling-*MANORS* tree Hundred in 1086. Geoffrey Alsclin was overlord of a $\frac{1}{2}$ hide that had previously belonged with sac and soc to the English thegn Tochi son of Outi and was appurtenant to the manor of Milton Malzor. In 1086 Winemar the Fleming held the soc of this $\frac{1}{2}$ hide of Geoffrey Alsclin.

The major part of the vill, 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ hides, was held in demesne by the tenant-in-chief Gunfrid de Chocques (Cioches).⁷ In the 12th century the 'Chokes' fee had been increased by $\frac{1}{4}$ hide, and was held by Ascelin, or Anselm, de Chocques.⁸ From him it descended to the family of Béthune, hereditary advocates of the church of St. Vedast of Arras;⁹ and in 1209 at the request of William of Arras, advocate of Béthune, King John granted the manor and all appurtenances to Simon de

Pateshull and his heirs for £10 yearly as 1 knight's fee.¹⁰ The overlordship continued with the honor of Chokes until 1428,¹¹ and it was afterwards held in chief.¹² In 1252 its tenant owed castle-guard.¹³ All the royal lands in the parish became annexed to the honor of Grafton in 1542.¹⁴

From Simon de Pateshull, the judge, who died in about 1217,¹⁵ the manor passed to his eldest son Walter, whose son Simon succeeded him in 1232.¹⁶ It then descended with their manor of Pattishall¹⁷ (q.v.) through the family of Fauconberge to that of Strangeways until 1539, when Sir James Strangeways and Elizabeth his wife conveyed it to Edward Pureferey and John Yate.¹⁸ James and Philip Yate had licence in 1541 to alienate it to Elizabeth Englefield, widow, for life with first remainder to her son John in fee, then to her son and heir Francis in fee.¹⁹ On her death in 1543 her younger son John entered into possession.²⁰ He died seised in 1567 leaving a young son Francis,²¹ who was created a baronet in 1611,²² made several settlements,²³ and died seised in 1631. His son and heir Sir Francis²⁴ alienated the manor by a conveyance in 1639 to Sir William Willmer and others,²⁵ evidently trustees for Sir William Andrew, bart., of Little Doddington.²⁶ In 1647 it was sequestered for his recusancy; and Peter Stringer of Rainham, Norfolk, and John Watson of St. Andrew's, Holborn, stated that they had purchased it of him and begged to compound for it.²⁷ The manor descended, however, in the Andrew or Andrews family until 1723.²⁸ It later came into the hands of Peter John Fremeaux, from whom it had passed by 1773 to James Fremeaux and Margaret his wife;²⁹ and in 1798-9 it passed with the marriage of Susanna Fremeaux to Thomas Reeve Thornton³⁰ to the Thorntons of Brockhall.



ANDREW. *Gules a saltire or voided vert.*

¹ *Men. Angl.* v, 190.

² *Rot. Hugonis de Welles* (Cant. and York Soc.), i, 9.

³ *Valer Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), iv, 314.

⁴ *Census* (1931).

⁵ Bridges, *Hist. of Northants.* i, 385.

⁶ *Northants. N. and Q.* s.s. vi, 55. It contains about 920 nesting-places, and in 1926 was in use as a hen-house. There was another dovecote on the other side of the street, but it was taken down about 1914.

⁷ *P.C.H. Northants.* i, 345a, 347a.

⁸ *Ibid.* 375a. The former was assessed at 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ carucates in 1220: *Bk. of Fees*, 325.

⁹ André du Chesne, *Maison de Béthune*, 32; and see under Knuston, above, p. 22.

¹⁰ *Rot. Chart.* (Rec. Com.), 184b. Farrer (*Honors and Knights' Fees*, i, 21) suggests that the fee of Chokes held in

1166 by Robert son of Sewin may have been here; but the evidence is inconclusive.

¹¹ See Gayton, which became the *caput* of the honor; also *Bk. of Fees*, 325, 494, 499; *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 36 Hen. III, no. 64.

¹² *Cal. Inq. Hen. VII*, i, 61.

¹³ *Cal. Inq. Misc.* i, 149.

¹⁴ *L. and P. Hen. P.III*, xvii, 28 (22).

¹⁵ *Diet. Nat. Biog.*

¹⁶ Farrer, *op. cit.* 93.

¹⁷ *Bk. of Fees*, no. 495, 939; *Red Bk. of Exch.* (Rolls Ser.), 727, where it is misprinted as Kitheresthorp; *Feud. Aids*, iv, 5, 27, 42, 447; *Cal. Close*, 1364-8, pp. 307, 434; *Cal. Pat.* 1405-8, p. 64; *Cal. Inq. Hen. VII*, i, 611.

¹⁸ Feet of F. Northants. Mich. 31 Hen. VIII; *Recov. R. Mich.* 31 Hen. VIII, rot. 156.

¹⁹ *L. and P. Hen. P.III*, xvi, g. 1056 (46).

²⁰ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), lxxi, 77.

²¹ *Ibid.* cxlv, 52.

²² G.E.C. *Complete Baronetage*, i, 91.

²³ *Recov. R. Trin.* 26 Eliz. rot. 173; Feet of F. Div. Co. Hil. 36 Eliz.; *ibid.* East. 14 Jas. I, Trin. 14 Jas. I.

²⁴ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), cccclxx, 63.

²⁵ Feet of F. Northants. Trin. 15 Chas. I.

²⁶ See G.E.C. *Complete Baronetage*, ii, 146-7.

²⁷ *Cal. Com. for Comp.* nos. 1740, 1884.

²⁸ *Add. Chart.* 24157; Feet of F. Northants. Hil. 6 Will. III; *ibid.* Trin. 9 Geo. I; Div. Co. Hil. 7 Anne.

²⁹ *Recov. R. Trin.* 13 Geo. III, ro. 341-2.

³⁰ Feet of F. Northants. Mich. 30 Geo. III; *P.C.H. Northants. Families*, 308.

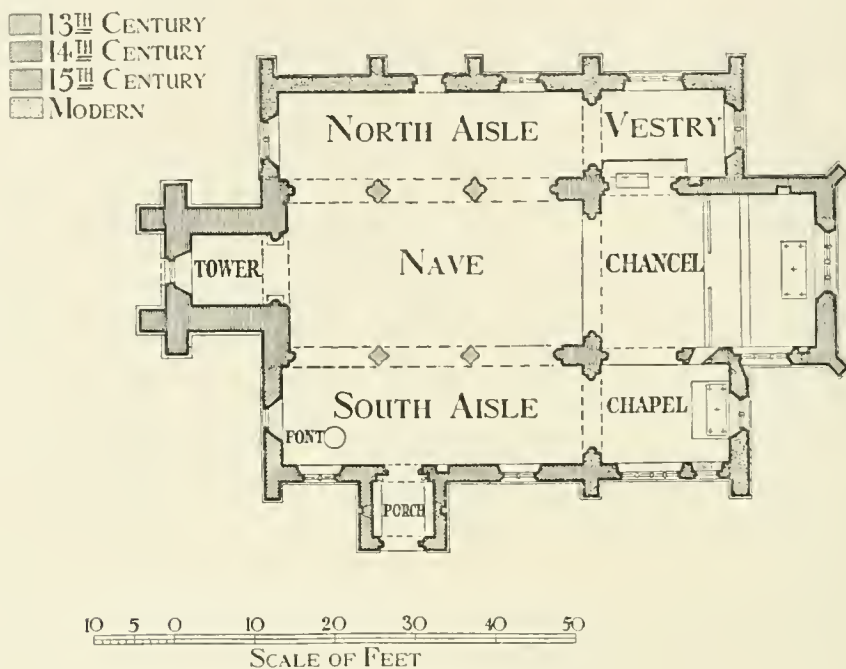
A HISTORY OF NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

The manor included in 1295 Thorpe Wood in Salcey forest, with housebote and heybote by view of the foresters and verderers.¹ In 1359 14 cottars paid 16s. yearly rent for a common oven; and there were then customs called 'beaupleyt' and 'yeld'.² In 1675 free fishery and free warren, view of frankpledge and court baron were descending with the manor.³

Winemar's successors held of the honor of Huntingdon of the Hastings pourparty. Walter, son of Wine-mar the Domesday tenant, and his brother Michael, with consent of 'A.' his wife, gave two thirds of the tithe of their demesne in Thorpe and Wootton to St. Andrew's priory, Northampton.⁴ Three-quarters of a

Englefields, as lords of Rothersthorpe, were still paying it in the late 16th century.¹⁷

The church of *ST. PETER AND ST. CHURCH PAUL* consists of chancel, 26 ft. 6 in. by 19 ft. 3 in., with north and south chapels, clerestoried nave, 36 ft. 6 in. by 18 ft., north and south aisles, respectively 10 ft. 9 in. and 12 ft. 3 in. wide, south porch, and west tower 8 ft. 9 in. by 9 ft., all these measurements being internal. The width across nave and aisles is 46 ft. 2 in. The chapels belong structurally to the aisles and overlap the chancel on each side for about half its length. The north chapel is now used as a vestry.



PLAN OF ROTHERSTHORPE CHURCH

hide was given to the Hospital of St. John of Northampton⁵ soon after its foundation in about 1138,⁶ the Preston family retaining the mesne lordship.⁷ The Hospital held 10 virgates in 1284,⁸ was returned as joint lord of the vill in 1316,⁹ and had $\frac{1}{4}$ knight's fee in 1376.¹⁰ In 1535 it paid Sir James Strangeways 34s. annually for land here and in Tiffeld, and had a bailiff for these places.¹¹

The £10 fee farm rent from the manor was granted by Henry III in 1231 to St. Mary de Pratis near Creak, Norfolk, as a temporary gift,¹² confirmed by Edward I;¹³ and that house remained in possession until it came to an end automatically in 1507, 'because there was no convent in it'.¹⁴ John de Pateshull in 1349 held £42 13s. 5d. rent and rents of 3 capons and 14 hens of the Abbot of Creak by the service of 30s. yearly and to John Cook 12d.,¹⁵ these sums being presumably the proportion of the £10 chargeable on his tenements. Henry VII gave the £10 rent to Christ's College, Cambridge, with the rest of the abbey's property;¹⁶ and the

The walling is all of roughly dressed coursed limestone mingled with local ironstone, and, with the exception of the porch, all the roofs are of low pitch and leaded. There is a parapet to the north aisle, but elsewhere the lead overhangs. The tower has a leaded saddle-back roof, and the porch is covered with red tiles. Internally the walls are plastered, except in the tower and at the west end of the nave.

The 12th-century font and the sculptured cross-head noticed below point to a church of that period on the site, but no part of the existing fabric can definitely be assigned to so early a date. The present nave may be considered to represent that of a 13th-century aisleless church, the quoins at the western angles of which remain, and the walls of the chancel are in the main of the same period, a portion of a 13th-century string-course, originally external, being now within the south chapel. About 1300, aisles were added and the present arcades built, the aisles being carried eastward so as partly to cover the chancel, the arch to which was

¹ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* iii, 269, p. 233.

² *Ibid.* x, 520, p. 411.

³ *Recov. R. Mich.* 27 Chas. II, rot. 215.

⁴ Cott. MS. Vesp. E. xvii, fol. 79; Dugdale, *Mon.* v, 191b.

⁵ *V.C.H. Northants.* i, 375a.

⁶ *Ibid.* iii, 59.

⁷ *Feud. Aids*, iv, 7.

⁸ *Ibid.*

⁹ *Ibid.* 27.

¹⁰ *Cal. Close*, 1374-7, p. 190.

¹¹ *Valor Eccles.* (Rec. Com.), iv, 317.

¹² *Cal. Chart.* 1226-57, p. 139.

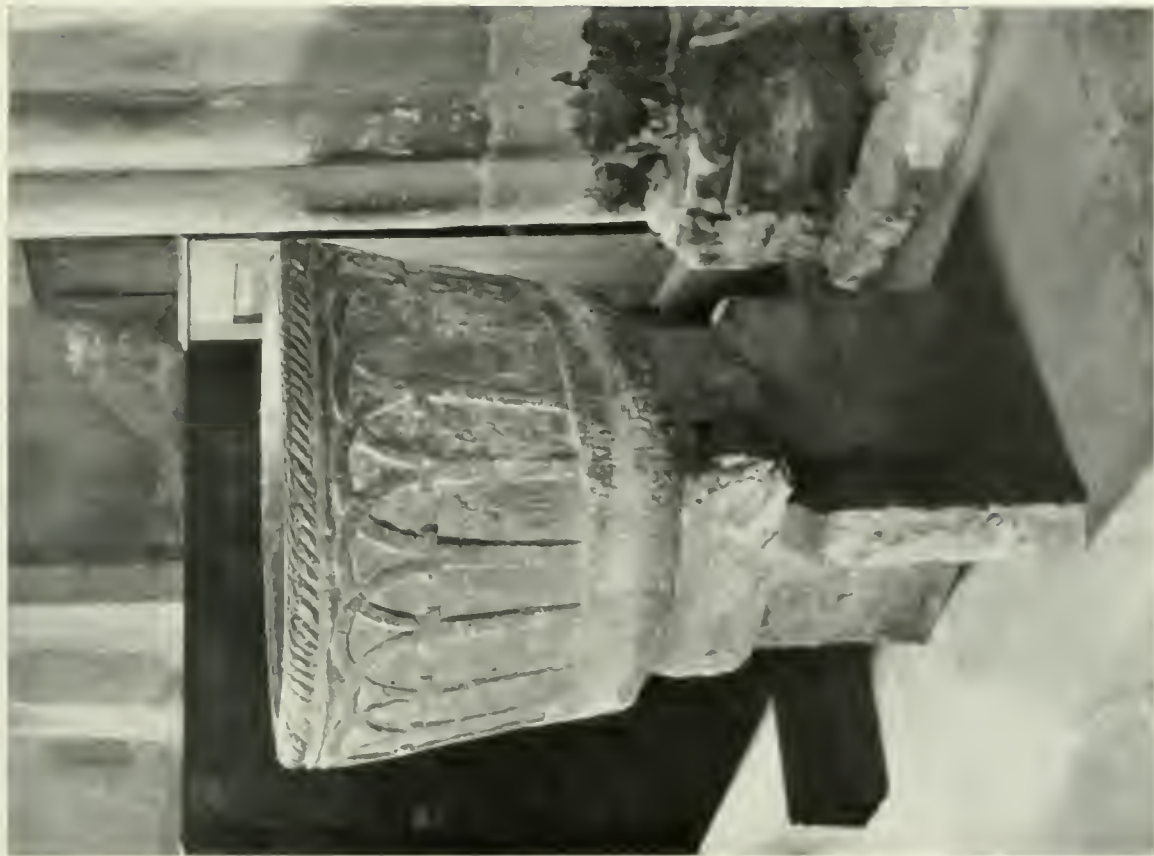
¹³ *Cal. Close*, 1339-41, p. 446.

¹⁴ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), xxiii, 285.

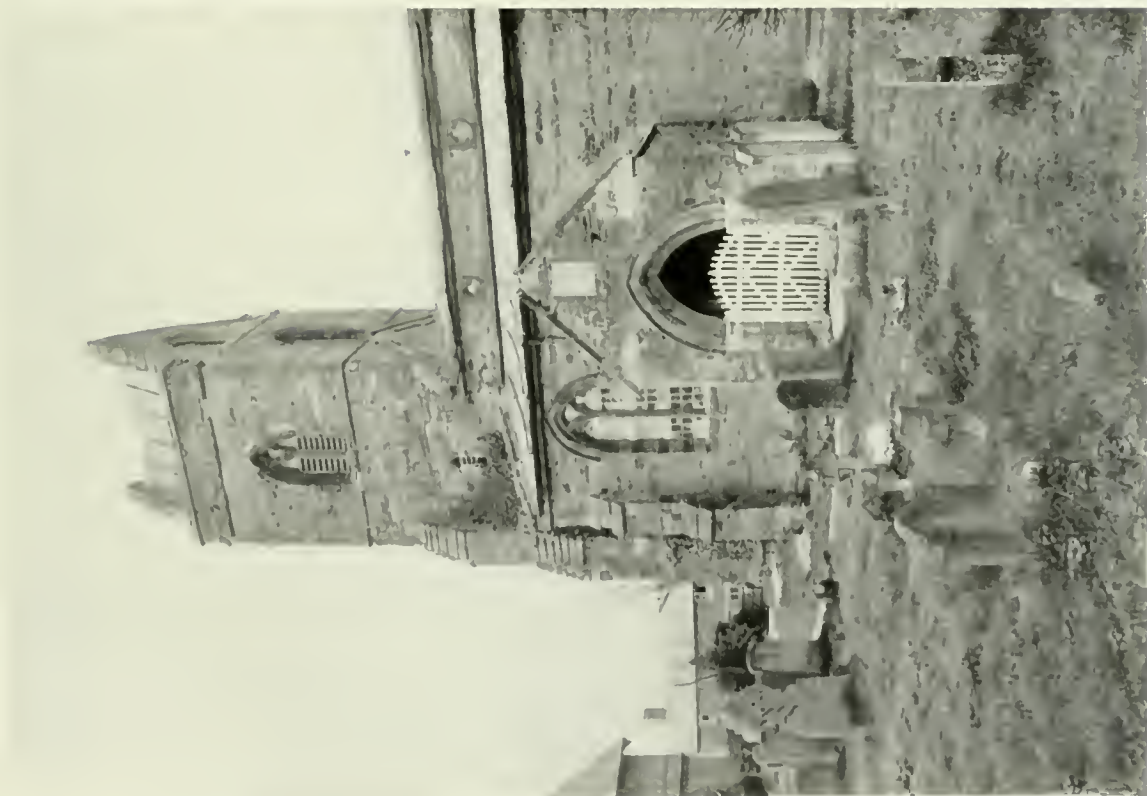
¹⁵ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* ix, 350, p. 289.

¹⁶ *Cal. Pat.* 1494-1509, p. 543.

¹⁷ Whellan, *Gaz.* 281.



ROTHERTHORPE CHURCH: THE FONT



ROTHERTHORPE CHURCH, FROM THE SOUTH-EAST

rebuilt, a clerestory erected and the tower heightened or its upper part reconstructed. In the 15th century new windows were inserted in the chancel and other changes made, the nave roof being perhaps then lowered to its present pitch.¹

In 1841² the nave and aisles were re-pewed, but no extensive reparation was undertaken until 1910-12, when the north aisle and the east end of the south aisle were rebuilt, an arch turned across each aisle to resist the thrust of the chancel arch, and the tower repaired. Some alterations were made in the chancel in 1932.

The chancel has a chamfered plinth and keel-shaped string at sill level all round. The large pointed 15th-century east window is of four cinquefoiled lights with vertical tracery and hood-mould,³ and the two-stage diagonal angle buttresses were no doubt added when the window was inserted. On the south side is a tall pointed window of three cinquefoiled lights, and on the north side, high in the wall, a square-headed window of three ogee cinquefoiled lights, with pointed rear arch. The piscina and double sedilia form a single composition of three continuous-moulded ogee arches without hoods, the bowl of the piscina being fluted and the seats on one level. Immediately west of the sedilia is a splayed flat-arched opening, about 3 ft. wide, forming a squint from the aisle, or chapel,⁴ and in the north wall is a rectangular aumbry, which retains its original oak door and beautiful iron hinges with snake-head terminations.⁵ At its western end the chancel opens to the north and south chapels by early-14th-century pointed arches of two chamfered orders, the inner order on half-octagonal responds with moulded capitals and bases; and the wider chancel arch is similar, all the bases having double rolls. The chancel has an old open timber roof of plain character, and turned oak altar rails. The floor is flagged.

The nave arcades are of three pointed arches of two chamfered orders springing from pillars composed of attached triple shafts grouped round a cylindrical core, which fills the spaces between the four sets of shafts. The pillars have moulded capitals with plain bells and the bases a simple double roll upon a square plinth. The responds are half-octagonal, and the arches have hood-moulds on both sides. At the east end of each arcade, high in the wall, in the usual position near to the chancel arch, the rood-loft doorways remain, but the lower doorway on the north side is either hidden or removed. The arches between the aisles and the chapels, as already stated, are modern,⁶ and the former screens have been removed.

There is a piscina in each of the chapels, that in the south with continuous-moulded pointed head and fluted bowl, and the other with trefoiled head and bowl with

orifices placed round a central boss. The south chapel has a restored pointed east window of two trefoiled lights, the splayed jambs of which widen out at the bottom internally,⁷ and in the south wall a single-light pointed window near the east end,⁸ and a later elliptical-headed window of four trefoiled lights. On each side of the east window is a moulded bracket, and below the four-light window a wide wall-recess⁹ with moulded ogee arch and crocketed hood-mould.

The much-restored east window of the north chapel is of two trefoiled lights with quatrefoil in the head, but in the north wall is a pointed three-light window with good original curvilinear tracery.

The 13th-century south doorway, moved outward when the aisle was built, has a pointed arch of two orders, the inner with a continuous half-roll edge moulding and the outer with a plain chamfer, on nook-shafts with moulded capitals and bases: the hood-mould is keel-shaped. The original oak door has been faced with deal, but retains a good iron ring-handle with circular pierced plate. The pointed north doorway is of two continuous moulded orders with hood-mould. The pointed aisle windows are much restored: that at the west end of the south aisle consists of a single trefoiled light, the others of two lights, varying only slightly in detail.

The clerestory windows, three on each side, are small quatrefoiled circles, but on the south side the easternmost one has been replaced by a long square-headed window of four lights with wooden lintel.¹⁰ The east gable of the old nave roof, surmounted by a sanctus bell-turret, still stands, though the roof itself no longer remains.

The restored porch¹¹ is without buttresses and has a pointed outer doorway of two chamfered orders, the inner order on half-octagonal responds with moulded capitals and bases. A disused sun-dial in the plain coped gable occupies the place of a former niche. In each of the side walls is a small nondescript opening cut from a single stone.

The tower, which is undivided by strings below the bell-chamber, has pairs of three-stage buttresses at its western angles, and a wide single-light pointed west window, below which a doorway with wooden frame is cut through the wall. The north and south walls are blank, except for a small pointed louvred opening in the upper part. There is no vice. The bell-chamber stage is much restored; the pointed windows are of two trefoiled lights, with plain pierced spandrels, and hood-moulds. On the north and south sides the tower terminates with straight parapets, and the coped east and west gables of the saddle-back roof have each a small pointed window of two lights.¹² Internally the tower opens to the nave by a 13th-century pointed arch of

¹ The lines of the two older roofs are on the east face of the tower, the lower one being that of the 13th-century nave.

² Some of the ancient furnishings were unfortunately removed. The condition of the church in 1835 is thus described: 'The chancel arch was boarded up and the King's arms placed thereon; part of the rood-loft screen remained. The screens of the chantry chapels divided them from the aisles and were of Perpendicular character': *Four. Brit. Archaeol. Assoc.* (April 1846), p. 6. Before the introduction of the new pews part of the floor was paved with red glazed figured tiles forming quarters of circles, the designs on which com-

prised running deer and fighting cocks: *ibid.* 9-10.

³ The jambs are double chamfered and may belong to a 14th-century window. The window in the south wall has a case-moulding.

⁴ The sill is about 2 ft. from the floor; towards the chapel it is formed by the string of the originally external chancel wall.

⁵ The opening is 1 ft. 8½ in. high by 14 in. wide and is rebated all round. The hinges are of 'omega' shape.

⁶ The thrust of the chancel arch is still active, and the nave walls immediately to

the west of it are bolted together with iron rods.

⁷ In the lower widened part the jambs are wave-moulded.

⁸ It has wave-moulded jambs and its sill is 5 ft. 6 in. above the plinth.

⁹ It is 7 ft. wide and 4 ft. high.

¹⁰ The stone tabling below the eaves is cut away for the wooden lintel.

¹¹ The porch was described as 'in bad repair' in December 1892.

¹² The height of the tower from the ground to the top of the gables is given as 'nearly 60 ft.': *Journ. Brit. Arch. Assoc.* (1846), 7.

A HISTORY OF NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

two chamfered orders, the inner order on half-round responds with moulded capitals and bases.

The 12th-century font has a circular bowl ornamented with an arcade of intersecting round arches and with a cable moulding round the top. It formerly stood on a plain circular drum and two steps,¹ but is now on a small roughly shaped pedestal and base.

The plain panelled oak pulpit has a moulded top and base and on the front panel is incised 'F.S. 1579', within a shield.

In the nave and aisles are sentences of scripture painted on the walls;² and the pillars are painted grey with orange-coloured capitals. In the north aisle is a memorial to seven men of the parish who fell in the war of 1914-18.

There is a ring of five bells cast by Gillett and Johnston of Croydon in 1914.³

The silver plate consists of a cup of 1570 and a paten of 1591; there is also a pewter flagon, and a pewter plate dated 1702.⁴

The registers before 1812 are as follows: (i) all entries 1562-1653; (ii) December 1655-95;⁵ (iii) burials February 1678/9-1759; (iv) baptisms 1706-49; (v) baptisms 1750-1813; (vi) marriages 1754-1812; (vii) burials 1773-1812.

In the church is preserved the head and upper part of the shaft of a 12th-century wheeled cross, which was found in 1869 in pulling down a barn in the village.⁶

The cross proper, which bears the figure of Our Lord, rises from beautifully carved foliage, with projecting heads at the sides above a horizontal moulded and sculptured band.⁷

In the churchyard is the base of a cross consisting of a square socket stone with chamfered edges, containing a small portion of the shaft.⁸

William II, le Roux, advocate of *ADWOWSON* Béthune, gave the church to the abbey of St. James outside Northampton⁹ by 1209. The abbey presented to the vicarage in 1227, saving a portion to themselves.¹⁰ St. Andrew's priory had received a grant of tithes from Michael de Preston,¹¹ and when this church was appropriated to St. James's Abbey in 1277 the pension was reserved¹² and still paid in 1535.¹³ The vicar, it was arranged in 1277, was to have the manse on the south of the church and the house that 'Sarra called the nun' used to dwell in. The abbey held the advowson and rectory until its surrender in 1538.¹⁴ They were sold by Edward VI to Matthew White and Edward Bury,¹⁵ and purchased from them by Francis Samwell,¹⁶ of Upton, who presented in 1555,¹⁷ and the rectory and advowson descended with Upton (q.v.) until 1865,¹⁸ after which the advowson was acquired by the Rev. J. L. S. Hatton. From 1903 until now it has been in the possession of P. Phipps, esq.,¹⁹ the present patron. The living is a vicarage.

WHISTON

Hycintune, Hyittintune (x cent.); Wicetone, Wicentone (xi cent.); Wychintone, Huchentone (xii cent.); Whiston (xii cent. onwards); Wichenton, Whichestone (xiii cent.); Wystone (xiii-xvi cent.).

The area of the civil parish of Whiston is 833 acres of land and water. The soil is red and heavy, the sub-soil clay, ironstone, and limestone, the chief crops cereals and roots.²⁰ The population was about 14 families in 1720,²¹ which would about equal the 66 persons of 1921; it has since declined to 49.²²

The small village, not far from the Nene, the northern boundary of the parish, is pleasantly situated at the foot of Combe Hill, on which stands the 16th-century church. Place House, a detached farm-house on the west side of the village, with remains of a moat, incorporates some portions of a mediæval building, two buttresses of which are attached to one of the angles of the present house, which is a plain rectangular building

of two stories with mullioned windows²³ and thatched roof. There is a local 'tradition' that the original house was a seat of King John.²⁴

Brihtnoth, who became earldorman of *MANORS* the East Saxons about 953 and died in 991,²⁵ gave *WHISTON* and all appurtenances to Ramsey Abbey, in perpetual alms. Edgar the Peaceful, Edward the Confessor, and other kings confirmed, as did Pope Alexander III in 1178.²⁶

In 1086 the abbey held 3 hides in Whiston and Denton and also a house and 5 acres of land in Brafield pertaining to Whiston.²⁷ Of half an acre of this last estate Countess Judith had the soke, as well as 1 virgate attached to Yardley Hastings.²⁸ In the 12th century the abbey fee was 1½ hides, the Huntingdon fee of Countess Judith's successor, King David, 1 'great' virgate.²⁹ The vill was held of Ramsey Abbey in 1284;³⁰ and the manor was said to be held in chief in

¹ *Jour. Brit. Arch. Assoc.* (1846), 2. It is so shown in a drawing by Sir Henry Dryden dated June 1838, in the Northampton Public Library. The bowl is 2 ft. 6 in. diam. at top, narrowing to about 2 ft. at the bottom, and is 17 in. high.

² One over each pillar, and over the north and south doorways.

³ They are recastings of a former ring of four, to which a new treble was added. Of the old bells one was dated 1630, two 1638, and one 1719: the inscriptions are given in North, *Ch. Bells of Northants.* 393.

⁴ Markham, *Ch. Plate of Northants.* 252.

⁵ Inside the cover of vol. ii are baptisms from July 1702 to February 1702-3.

⁶ *Assoc. Arch. Soc. Rep.* xx, 89.

⁷ Markham, *Stone Crosses of Northants.* 103, where it is figured. See also drawing

by Sir Henry Dryden, dated November 3, 1884, in Northampton Public Library. The total height is 2 ft. 9 in. and the width at the top 15 in. The cross was placed in the church in 1884.

⁸ Markham, op. cit. 104.

⁹ Dugdale, *Mon.* vi, 114.

¹⁰ *Rot. Illeg. de Welles* (Cant. and York Soc.), ii, 135, 222.

¹¹ Cott. MS. Vesp. E. xvii, fol. 79.

¹² *Rot. Ric. Gravesend* (Cant. and York Soc.), 131.

¹³ *Valor Eccles.* (Rec. Com.), iv, 331.

¹⁴ *Ibid.* 319; *Rot. Roberti Grosseteste* (Cant. and York Soc.), 162, 219; *L. and P. Hen. VIII*, xiii (1), 404; xiv (1), p. 605.

¹⁵ *Cal. Pat. Eduw. VI*, iii, 151.

¹⁶ Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), ccx, 69.

¹⁷ Bridges, loc. cit.

¹⁸ Feet of F. Northants. Mich. 28-29 Eliz.; *ibid.* Div. Co. Mich. 27 Chas. II;

ibid. Hil. 7 Anne; Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), cccclxii, 27; Inst. Bks. (P.R.O.); *Clergy Lists.*

¹⁹ Crockford, *Cler. Dir.*

²⁰ Kelly, *Dir.* (1936).

²¹ Bridges, *Hist. of Northants.* i, 388.

²² *Census* (1931).

²³ The lower windows have square-headed lights, but those of the first-floor windows are round-headed.

²⁴ Whellan, *Northants.* (1874), 283: according to the tradition 'part of the stone was carried away to build the manor-house at Ecton'.

²⁵ *Dict. Nat. Biog.*

²⁶ *Cartul. Mon. de Rames.* (Rolls Ser.), i, 280, ii, 56, 73, 136, iii, 167.

²⁷ *V.C.H. Northants.* i, 319a.

²⁸ *Ibid.* 351b.

²⁹ *Ibid.* 376a.

³⁰ See below.

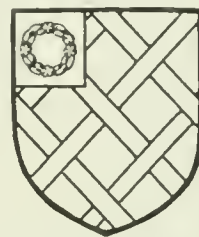
1347 and 1392 (by the service of a rose at midsummer),¹ but after the Dissolution it was returned in 1554 as held of Henry Williams alias Cromwell as of the manor of Ramsey by the service of $\frac{1}{2}$ knight's fee.²

The under-tenant in the 13th century owed forinsec service to the abbey, a knight for the king's army, two suits yearly at the court of Broughton, Huntingdonshire, and, if the king's writ ran, suit at the three weeks' court.³

William de Whiston, living 1120,⁴ was under-tenant of the abbey's $1\frac{1}{2}$ virgates here.⁵ His son Henry had succeeded, by special grant of the abbot, by 1130;⁶ and other sons, Thomas and Ralph, are mentioned.⁷ Sir Henry de Whiston, knight of the abbey, was succeeded in about 1191⁸ by William, steward of the abbey in 1219,⁹ who held $\frac{1}{2}$ fee of the abbey in Whiston and Denton in 1242¹⁰ and was elected knight of the abbey for Wales in 1245.¹¹ Sir William de Whiston was summoned to do homage at Broughton in 1253;¹² orders were passed for distraint in default until 1260.¹³ Not long after this the manor was alienated to a Jew, Moses, and he enfeoffed Gilbert de Clare, 'the Red', Earl of Gloucester,¹⁴ who in 1284 held the vill of Ramsey Abbey as a $\frac{1}{4}$ knight's fee.¹⁵ His son and heir Gilbert, the last Earl of Gloucester of the house of Clare, in 1313 granted the manor to Gilbert de St. Owen and his wife Joan,¹⁶ possibly in trust.¹⁷ In 1316 the vill with 'the other half' of Denton was returned as in the possession of Margery de Meuse and John de Cave;¹⁸ but Margaret, one of the sisters and heirs of Earl Gilbert, inherited Whiston manor from him.¹⁹ She married Hugh de Audley, created Earl of Gloucester in 1336.²⁰ His manors, including Whiston, descended to the Staffords, and Thomas, Earl of Stafford, in 1392 granted the manor to his esquire Nicholas Bradshawe for life.²¹ Nicholas died in 1415,²² and the king as guardian of Humphrey, son of Earl Edmund, granted the custody of the manor to Sir William Bourghchier.²³ Humphrey in 1437-8 exchanged this manor and Woodford with Sir John Clinton for the castle and manor of Maxstoke, Warwick.²⁴ Between 1454 and 1457 John, Lord Clinton, made conveyances of this manor,²⁵ evidently for settlement on Joan his wife, who afterwards married Sir Robert Wingfield.²⁶ In 1495-6 Elizabeth daughter and heir of Robert Wingfield and wife of Sir Robert Brandon, quitclaimed her rights in the manor to Robert Wingfield, esq.²⁷ This was probably merely for security of the title of the Catesbys, to whom the manor had already passed.

Sir John Catesby, Justice of the Common Pleas,

disposed in his will of his manor of Whiston. He died in 1486 leaving an eldest son Humphrey²⁸ whose son and heir Anthony, called 'of Whiston' and the builder (1534) of the present church,²⁹ succeeded in 1503,³⁰ and died seised of the manor in 1554, leaving a son Thomas.³¹ He was father of another Thomas³² and of many daughters. Thomas in 1591 settled the manor on the marriage of his son George with Bridget Bedell, and died in 1592.³³ Bridget made a conveyance in 1602 of the site of the manor;³⁴ and in 1627 she and George granted about 200 acres in Whiston and Denton to Clifton Catesby, son and heir of George.³⁵ Clifton's son George in 1656 demised the manor for 50 years to John Palmer of Ecton, clerk, and John Ekins of Rushton; but they surrendered it in 1665 to Thomas, brother and successor of George, for other property.³⁶ Thomas, the last of the line, died in 1699, leaving his wife Margaret, grand-daughter of Sir Richard Samwell of Upton, in possession; in 1720 she held the manor and owned the whole parish.³⁷ All their children died young except Mary, who married the Hon. Henry Paget, afterwards Earl of Uxbridge, and Elizabeth, who married Ralph Freeman of Aspeden, Hertfordshire.³⁸ The two daughters and Henry Paget, Mary's husband, made a settlement in 1699 of manor and advowson,³⁹ evidently on Mary and Henry, whose daughter married Sir Edward Irby, bart., of Boston, Lincolnshire. Sir Edward was succeeded in 1718 by his son William, created Baron Boston in 1761. He was a 'King's Friend' and ancestor of a line of Tory politicians. His wife was buried at Whiston in 1769, he in 1775; but he had purchased the estate of Hedsor, Bucks., and there his son Frederick built the present family seat. He was succeeded in 1825 by his son George and he in 1856 by his son George Ives, the fourth baron. He died in 1869, and his son Florance George Henry in 1877, when the latter's son, George Florance, the present Lord Boston, succeeded.⁴⁰



IRBY. *Argent fretty sable a quarter gules charged with a wreath or.*

The church of *ST. MARY THE CHURCH VIRGIN* stands on Combe Hill, above the village on its east side, and consists of chancel, 16 ft. by 15 ft. 6 in.; nave, 61 ft. 6 in. by 15 ft. 6 in.; north and south aisles, each 10 ft. 9 in. wide; small south porch, and west tower, 11 ft. square,

¹ *Cal. Close*, 1346-9, p. 347; *Cal. Pat.* 1391-6, p. 205.

² *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), ci, 93.

³ *Cartul. Mon. de Rames.* (Rolls Ser.), 280.

⁴ *Chron. de Rames.* (Rolls Ser.), 254.

⁵ *V.C.H. Northants.* i, 376a.

⁶ *Chron. de Rames.* (Rolls Ser.), 244.

⁷ *Ibid.* 262.

⁸ *Cartul. Mon. de Rames.* (Rolls Ser.), i, 154, iii, 49; *Pipe R. 3 Ric. I* (Pipe R. Soc. [N.S.]), 157.

⁹ *Cartul. Mon. de Rames.* (Rolls Ser.), ii, 356.

¹⁰ *Bk. of Fees*, 936.

¹¹ *Cartul. Mon. de Rames.* (Rolls Ser.), iii, 52.

¹² *Ibid.* 56.

¹³ *Ault, Court Rolls of Abbey of Ramsey, passim.*

¹⁴ *Plac. de Quo Warr.* (Rec. Com.),

571-2.

¹⁵ *Feud. Aids*, iv, 5.

¹⁶ *Feet of F. Div. Co. East.* 6 Edw. II, no. 78. Gilbert may have been connected with the family of Clare, as he used arms—Gules 3 cheverons or. He was dead in 1315: *Knights of Edw. I* (Harl. Soc.), 192.

¹⁷ *Cf. Cal. Pat.* 1307-13, p. 526.

¹⁸ *Feud. Aids*, iv, 26.

¹⁹ *Plac. de Quo Warr.* (Rec. Com.), 572.

²⁰ *G.E.C.* loc. cit.

²¹ *Cal. Pat.* 1391-6, pp. 192, 205.

²² *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 3 Hen. V, no. 6.

²³ *Cal. Pat.* 1413-16, p. 380.

²⁴ *Bridges, op. cit.* 389; *Dugdale, Baronage*, i, 532.

²⁵ *Feet of F. Northants.* 33 Hen. VI, no. 137; 35 Hen. VI, no. 145.

²⁶ *Wingfield, Some Records of the Wingfield Family*, 38.

²⁷ *Feet of F. Northants.* 11 Hen. VII.

²⁸ *Nicolas, Test. Vetust.* 389; *Dict. Nat. Biog.*

²⁹ *Metcalfe, Visit. Northants.* 174; *Hist. MSS. Com. Rep.* iii, 335.

³⁰ *Cal. Inq. Hen. VII*, ii, 925.

³¹ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), ci, 93.

³² *Metcalfe, loc. cit.*

³³ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), ccxxiii, 73, cclxxiii, 27; *Feet of F. Div. Co. East.* 34 Eliz.

³⁴ *Feet of F. Northants.* Mich. 44 and 45 Eliz.

³⁵ *Add. Chart.* 47088.

³⁶ *Northants. N. & Q.* v, 172.

³⁷ *Bridges, loc. cit.*

³⁸ *Feet of F. Northants.* Mich. 11 Will. III.

³⁹ *G.E.C. Complete Baronetage*, iv, 190-1.

⁴⁰ *G.E.C. Complete Peerage* (2nd ed.), i, 227-8.

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all these measurements being internal. There is no structural division between the nave and chancel, the length of which together is 77 ft. 6 in., and the total internal length of the church 92 ft. 6 in. The width across the nave and aisles is 41 ft. There is no clerestory.

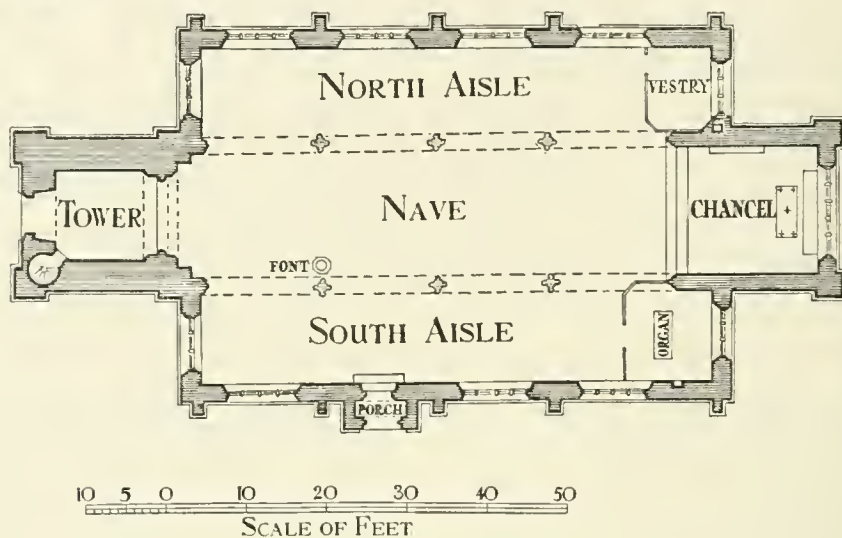
The church was built in 1534 by Anthony Catesby and his wife, and their son John, and has remained unaltered. It is a very interesting unspoilt example of late medieval design, and has been described as 'a small but perfect specimen of the Tudor style',¹ but its details preserve all the character of the best work of the 15th century, and there is little structural evidence of its late date. In Bridges' time, however, there still

continued along the east gable, with a cross at the apex: the north and south walls of the chancel are blank.

The nave arcades³ are of four bays, with four-centred moulded arches on pillars composed of four attached columns disposed around a cylindrical core, with moulded bases and capitals, and from responds of similar character. The spandrels are richly ornamented with blind tracery below a moulded string, and over the pillars are scroll-bearing angel corbels supporting slender roof shafts with moulded capitals and bases.

The aisles overlap the chancel about 5 ft., the easternmost bay of each being therefore longer than the others. The external setting out of the bays follows that of the arcades, with two-stage buttresses opposite the pillars,

■ 16TH CENTURY EARLY



PLAN OF WHISTON CHURCH

existed in one of the windows the remains of an inscription which read 'Orate pro . . . Antonii Catesby Armigeri et Isabelle uxoris ejus Domini . . . Johannis Junioris generosi ejusdem Antonii . . . qui quidem Antonius, Isabella et Johannes hanc Ecclesiam condiderunt . . . quingentesimo tricesimo quarto. . .',² which if rightly recorded places the year of building beyond doubt.

Except in the tower, where limestone and local ironstone are used in decorative contrast, the walls are wholly faced with dressed limestone, with chamfered plinths, moulded bases, strings at sill level, and battlemented parapets. The roofs are of low pitch and leaded: the aisles are under separate ridged roofs, but with raking parapets at the ends. The building is planned symmetrically, and though in the main the detail is rich it is distributed judiciously and is not overcharged. Internally, except in the tower, all the walls are plastered and the floors flagged.

The chancel has large clasping angle buttresses and a four-centred east window of five lights, with moulded jambs and mullions, Perpendicular tracery, and hood-mould. The battlemented parapet is con-

tinued along the east gable, with a cross at the apex. The aisle windows are all four-centred, with moulded jambs and mullions, those in the north and south walls being of four lights and the east and west windows of three. The hood-moulds have plain stops and the trefoiled lights have feather cusping: the sills are about 8 ft. from the ground. The south doorway is below the window of the second bay from the west; it has a continuous-moulded four-centred arch and is covered by the porch, which measures internally only 6 ft. by 2 ft. The porch has a battlemented parapet and panelled stone roof: its outer moulded arch rests on slender jambshafts with moulded capitals and is within a square frame, the spandrels of which contain blank shields. At the east end of the south aisle, in the position usually occupied by the piscina, is a plain pointed chamfered recess, but without indication of a basin. There is no piscina in either the chancel or north aisle, but there is a doorway in the north wall of the aisle near its east end.

The oak roofs of the nave and aisles are excellent examples of the work of the period, with moulded and carved principals, and moulded ridges, purlins, and rafters. The roof of nave and chancel is continuous,

¹ Parker, *Gothic Arch.* (*Companion*, 1846), iii, 154.

² *Hist. of Northants.* i, 390. The words of the inscription lay 'scattered and misplaced in several panels of the glass'. In

several places in the aisle windows was 'grace be owre gyde'. There is now no ancient glass in the church.

³ There is an elevation of the south arcade in Sharpe's *Chs. of the Nene Valley*,

plate 57: the width of the arches averages 13 ft., and the height of the pillars to the top of the capitals is 15 ft. The moulded bases are 3 ft. high.



WHISTON CHURCH, FROM THE SOUTH-EAST

of five subdivided bays, the main principals placed, as already described, over the pillars of the arcades, and the intermediate ones supported by shields carved with various devices.

The tower is the most highly ornamented part of the fabric, full use having been made of the contrast in colour between the deep yellow of the ironstone and the silver grey of the oolite. It is of four main stages, with clasping buttresses terminating at the top of the second stage in elaborate traceried and crocketed gables, over which they are continued in different form, first square and then diagonal, ending above the parapet in lofty pinnacles. The bottom stage is in alternate courses of yellow and grey stone, with a string at mid-height going round the buttresses, at the angles of which are small carved figures. There is a band of quatrefoils above the moulded base and on the west side a four-centred elaborately moulded doorway, the original square frame or hood-mould of which has been cut away. Over the doorway is a four-centred window of three lights, but on the north and south sides the bottom stage is blank. The second stage is wholly faced with ironstone except for a single course near the bottom, and has a cusped lozenge-shaped opening on all three sides, that facing west having in the middle a shield with the arms of Catesby quarterly.

The bell-chamber windows in the upper limestone stage are wide four-centred openings of four trefoiled lights under a square hood-mould with unpierced spandrels, and the merlons of the elaborate battlemented parapet are panelled, the string below having four carved bosses and a gargoyle on each side. Beneath is a band of quatrefoils and trefoils set diagonally. There is a vice in the south-west angle. The tower arch to the nave is rather sharply pointed and is of three chamfered orders without a hood, the two outer orders continuous and the inner one on half-round responds with moulded capitals and bases. The tower floor is one step below that of the nave.

The east ends of both aisles are screened off: on the north side for a vestry, on the south for the organ. The screens are modern.

The font is contemporary with the church, and consists of an octagonal panelled bowl and pedestal on two square steps. It has an interesting Jacobean oak cover with twisted balusters supporting a small canopy.

There are good oak Jacobean baluster altar rails, and the altar table is of approximately the same period, with curved legs. In the nave are a number of plain open fixed seats with good mouldings and ornamented at the ends with small buttresses: though in part much restored they appear to be contemporary with the building. The pulpit dates from 1855.

There is a scratch dial under the window west of the porch.¹

On the north wall of the chancel is a marble monument to Thomas Catesby (d. 1699) with busts of himself and wife, and in memory of Sir John Catesby (d. 1485) and his succeeding heirs,² and there are inscribed floor-slabs to the same Thomas Catesby and to George Catesby (d. 1658), and Margaret widow of Clifton Catesby (d. 1662). There are also memorials in the chancel to George Irby, 1st Baron Boston (d. 1775 and here buried), and his wife³ (d. 1769), and to the Hon. Edward Methuen Irby, killed at Talavera 1809; and in the aisles to members of the Irby family and others ranging from 1792⁴ to 1883, including Frederick, 2nd Baron Boston (d. 1825), Paul Anthony Irby, rector (d. 1865), Florance George Henry, 5th Baron Boston (d. 1877), and Charlotte Isabella, Countess of Orkney, and daughter of the 3rd Lord Boston (d. 1883).⁵

On the south wall of the chancel outside is a stone panel in memory of Edward Martyn (d. 1620) and his wife Winifrid Say, who 'lived together 54 years as patterns of religious and virtuous life', and had issue six sons and four daughters.⁶

In the north aisle, on a painted board, are the royal arms of one of the Hanoverian sovereigns before 1801.

There is a ring of five bells, the first by Thomas Russell, of Wootton, Bedfordshire, 1729, the second an alphabet bell by Hugh Watts of Leicester 1611, the third inscribed 'S. Anna' and bearing the mark of Thomas Newcombe of Leicester (c. 1567-8), and the fourth and fifth by Hugh Watts II of Leicester dated respectively 1635 and 1638.⁷

The plate consists of a cup of 1570 and a 17th-century paten inscribed 'Whiston'. There is also a pewter plate.⁸

The registers before 1812 are as follows: (i) all entries Dec. 1700 to Sept. 1731; (ii) baptisms and burials 1740-1812, marriages 1740-54; (iii) marriages 1755-1812.

Pope Alexander III in 1178 confirmed the church to Ramsey Abbey,⁹ which had probably already granted it to William de Whiston with the manor. His successor Sir William de Whiston was patron in 1231, when he presented William de Whiston, sub-deacon, to the church.¹⁰ He presented Roger de Whiston, sub-deacon, ten years later and was patron in 1248;¹¹ but the advowson would not have been alienated with the manor to Moses and so to the Earl of Gloucester. Agnes de Byfield apparently owned it in 1277, when she was sued by the earl; she did not appear,¹² and he presented, therefore, in 1278;¹³ but Alice daughter of Michael de Muncore of Whiston in 1301¹⁴ presented and afterwards, 1304-5, granted the advowson with half a virgate of land to Robert de Byfield and Alice his wife and his heirs.¹⁵ Hugh, Earl of Gloucester, revived

¹ Another, on the parapet of the porch, is of doubtful authenticity.

² Bridges, *Hist. of Northants.* i, 389. It has a pediment on Ionic columns, with shield of arms above, and a good bas-relief at the bottom.

³ The monument to Lady Boston is by Nollekens and has a female figure with extinguished torch leaning on an urn.

⁴ The earliest is a monument by Nollekens to Mary wife of William Henry Irby (d. 1792): it shows a cherub weeping by an urn.

⁵ The east window, by O'Connor of London, was put in in 1858 in memory of

the 3rd Lord Boston; and the west window, by Mayer of Munich, in 1884 in memory of the 4th Lord Boston: *ex inf.* the Rev. H. J. Smale.

⁶ The panel was erected by their eldest son. Edward Martyn died at the age of ninety-five and was buried at Whiston; his wife, aged eighty-six, was buried at St. Martin's, Leicester.

⁷ North, *Ch. Bells of Northants.* 444, where the inscriptions are given. In 1552 there was one great bell and one sanctus bell. A local tradition about the bells is given.

⁸ Markham, *Ch. Plate of Northants.*

⁹ 114. The date letter of the paten is uncertain, but it may be 1662. The pewter plate is of London make.

¹⁰ *Cartul. Mon. de Ramsey.* (Rolls Ser.), ii, 136.

¹¹ *Rot. Hug. de Welles* (Cant. and York Soc.), ii, 155, 240.

¹² *Rot. Ric. Grosseteste* (Cant. and York Soc.), 203, 231.

¹³ De Banco R. 24, m. 64.

¹⁴ *Rot. Ric. Gravesend* (Cant. and York Soc.), 135.

¹⁵ Bridges, *op. cit.* 390.

¹⁶ Feet of F. Northants, 33 Edw. I, no. 486; De Banco R. 346, m. 23.

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the claim to the advowson against Robert's son John de Byfield, but John recovered seisin,¹ and presented in 1346.² Nicholas Hobbeson [*sic*] of Moulsoe and Joan his wife presented in 1421, William Castell of Glatton and Isabel his wife in 1430;³ perhaps the wives were co-heiresses. In 1459 Richard Hobbes of Moulsoe conveyed half the 'manor' of Whiston with the advow-

son to trustees;⁴ but his son and heir Master Thomas Hobbes, S.T.P., presented in 1506.⁵ This manor and advowson were granted by Thomas Rowthall in conveyances 1529-32 to Anthony Catesby⁶ the builder of the present church. The advowson has since descended with the main manor⁷ and is now in the gift of Lord Boston. The living is a rectory.

WOOTTON

Witone (xi-xiii cent.); Wotton (xi-xviii cent.); Woddon (xii cent.); Wttona (xiii cent.); Wuttone (xiii-xiv cent.); Whutton (xiv cent.).

The parish of Wootton, covering an area of 1,735 acres land and 5 acres water, is bounded on the south and south-west by a brook running northwards to the Nene. The height rises gradually from 200 ft. by the brook to 360 ft. in the north. The subsoil is Great Oolite, Middle and Upper Lias, the soil various, the crops cereals with some pasture land. Adjoining the northern boundary is the miscalled 'Danes' Camp' in Hardingstone parish, and the ancient British trackway leading from this Hunsbury camp forms the boundary of the parish.⁸ A hoard of Roman coins, ranging from Gallienus to Numinian, was discovered in 1844.⁹

The village lies on the higher, north-western part of the parish, 2½ miles south-east of Northampton, with its church in the centre and a green.¹⁰ In the village there are a fair number of 17th- and early-18th-century houses built of local ironstone, some with thatched roofs; the following dates and initials occur, 1687, 1692, N^c A 1695, W. R. 1715, 1720 and 1726. Two other houses though later in date (1763 and 1766) retain all the character of the earlier buildings. The older northern wing of the rectory house was erected by Jeremiah Stephens (rector 1626-44) and bears a tablet inscribed DEO: ECCL: 1E: STEPH: POS: 1630. This part of the building is of three stories with mullioned windows and a gable facing east, but extensive additions were made to the house on the south side in 1835.

Wootton Hall, which was about a mile to the north-west of the village, was taken down in 1911, and a new house was built on a new site a little to the south. The old house was a plain two-story building of late-18th- or early-19th-century date, to which additions had been made.¹¹

The windmill, which stands near the junction of the Stony Stratford road with that to the village, was erected after an older mill, probably of wood, had been blown down in October 1815.¹² It is of red brick with dome-shaped cap. The mill was in use until 1914, but is now (1935) in a very dilapidated state. Wootton Grange is a mile west of the Hall, Milton Ham Farm in the extreme south. The wake followed the feast of

St. George.¹³ The population, 744 in 1921, was only 621 in 1931, for the civil parish.

Caroline Chisholm, the 'emigrants' friend', the daughter of a yeoman of this parish, William Jones, also noted as a philanthropist, was born here in 1808.¹⁴

In 1086 Walter de Aincurt ('Walter MANORS the Fleming') was overlord of 2½ hides in WOOTTON, and 1 hide was soke of the Countess Judith's manor of Yardley Hastings; and Winemar the Fleming was under-tenant of both parts.¹⁵ The former or WAHULL FEE descended with Pattishall (q.v.),¹⁶ and mention of this overlordship is found here until 1428.¹⁷ The service due from the under-tenant included rent for the guard of Rockingham Castle.

In the 12th-century survey the 2½ hides of this fee are entered without the name of any tenant,¹⁸ but by 1181 this had come into the hands of the Biduns, possibly as the marriage portion of Alice sister of William Mauduit, lord of Hanslope, who married John de Bidun¹⁹ in about 1150, she being then 15 years old. That Halenath de Bidun, John's father, presented to the church about 1150 may have been owing to the tender years of Alice and John. The date is fixed, because the parson presented was Walter de Bidun, chancellor of the King of Scotland²⁰ round 1150, a post shortly afterwards held by several others and not resumed by him till 1171,²¹ when Halenath had long been dead.

John was the founder of Lavenodon Abbey, Bucks., to which he, in 1178 or later, gave the church of Wootton.²² He died 1180-1,²³ and his son John died in 1184,²⁴ his heirs being his five sisters. They were (1) Amice wife of Henry de Clinton, (2) Amabel wife of Miles de Beauchamp, (3) Sara wife of Richard de Beauchamp, brother of Miles, (4) Maud wife of Geoffrey fitz Geoffrey, (5) Ermingard wife of Aldulf de Gatesden.²⁵ All appear in the history of this manor. Amice, the eldest sister, was alive 1235-6,²⁶ and left three daughters and co-heirs: Amabel wife of Luke de Colum, Isabel wife of Ralph fitz John, and Agnes wife of Warin de Brageham.²⁷ Ralph fitz John seems to have released his right here to the elder Amabel in 1219;²⁸ and though Agnes and Warin were living in 1255²⁹ they are not mentioned in connexion with

¹ Feet of F. Northants. 33 Edw. I, no. 486; De Banco R. 346, m. 23.

² Bridges, loc. cit. ³ Ibid.

⁴ Feet of F. Div. Co. Mich. 38 Hen. VI, no. 108. ⁵ Bridges, loc. cit.

⁶ Feet of F. Div. Co. Hil. 20 Hen. VIII; Recov. R. Trin. 24 Hen. VIII, rot. 155.

⁷ Inst. Bks. (P.R.O.); Chan. Proc. (Ser. 2), bdle. 335, no. 15.

⁸ V.C.H. Northants. i, 146.

⁹ Northants. N. and Q. n.s. iv, 65, where it is figured.

¹⁰ Ibid. vi, 78. Simon atte Grene is mentioned in the 13th century: Cal. Pat.

1272-81, p. 474.

¹¹ Northants. N. and Q. n.s. vi, 222.

¹² A mill is shown on the site in Eyre's map of 1779.

¹³ Bridges, loc. cit. ¹⁴ Dict. Nat. Biog.

¹⁵ V.C.H. Northants. i, 341b, 354b.

Wootton was assessed at 25 carucates in 1220: Bk. of Fees, 325.

¹⁶ Feud. Aids, iv, 42, 447.

¹⁷ Cal. Inq. p.m. vi, 612, p. 388.

¹⁸ V.C.H. Northants. i, 375a.

¹⁹ Rot. de Dominabus (Pipe R. Soc.), xxxvi.

²⁰ Maitland, Bracton's Note-Book, 648.

²¹ Lawrie, Early Scottish Charters, 185 and passim; Anderson, Early Sources of

Scottish Hist. ii, 259 n.

²² Dugdale, Mon. vi, 188; Maitland, Bracton's Note-Book, 648.

²³ Rot. de Dominabus (Pipe R. Soc.), 55.

²⁴ Farrer, Honors and Knights' Fees, i, 2.

²⁵ Ibid. 3; Rot. de Dominabus (Pipe R. Soc.), 43, 45; Roberts, Cal. Geneal. 62; Maitland, loc. cit. Cf. under Cotes Bidun in Raunds, above, p. 32.

²⁶ Farrer, op. cit. 6.

²⁷ Ibid; Roberts, loc. cit.

²⁸ Feet of F. Northants, case 172, file 15, no. 33.

²⁹ Excerpta e Rot. Fin. (Rec. Com.), ii, 202.

Wootton. The younger Amabel died childless¹ before 1242–3, when her husband Luke de Colum was joint tenant with Miles de Beauchamp II of the Wuhull knight's fee here.² They perhaps had a daughter Joan who predeceased them, for a Joan de Colum enfeoffed Gilbert de Preston (and his wife Alice), tenant of the other fee in Wootton, with 1½ virgates here.³ The Colums are no more mentioned.

Amabel, second sister of John de Bidun II, obtained a grant from Ralph fitz John in 1219;⁴ in 1225–6 she had leave to assart 8 acres of wood in Wootton, and when her daughter Sibyl gave them to St. Andrew's Priory she confirmed, as did Miles de Beauchamp, her son and heir.⁵ As 'lady of Wootton' she, with Robert fitz Geoffrey her nephew, recovered the advowson, 1231–2, from Lavendon Abbey.⁶ Miles the son was joint lord 1242–3,⁷ and died in 1264 leaving a son and heir Richard, still living 1292,⁸ but not mentioned in Wootton. Miles (once called Miles de Wootton) had given lands here to his sons William and Geoffrey, who gave part to the parson's foster-son, but seem to have kept lands and definitely taken the name Wootton.⁹ Their uncle or cousin¹⁰ John de Beauchamp alienated the manor and advowson in 1274 to Robert Burnel,¹¹ Bishop of Bath and Wells. The bishop's younger brother,¹² Philip, died seised in 1281, holding this estate of the bishop, together with certain lands of the Huntingdon fee here, and the bishop was his heir.¹³ Neither the bishop nor his nephew and heir, another Philip, held anything here when they died,¹⁴ though Philip had presented to the church in 1288.¹⁵ In 1283 the manor, two mills, the advowson, and the goods of the elder Philip had been taken into the king's hands,¹⁶ possibly because his widow had remarried without licence.¹⁷ Next year John de Hastings, overlord of the Huntingdon fee, held the vill as half a knight's fee of John de Wuhull,¹⁸ while in 1304 this was said to be ¾ of a knight's fee and held by John de Hastings and William de Wutton.¹⁹

John de Hastings demised the manor for life to Margery, widow (1309 or earlier)²⁰ of Alan, Earl of Menteith,²¹ who had some obscure connexion with his family; she, living here in 1316, was tenant.²² After her death it reverted to the Hastings family and descended with Yardley Hastings (q.v.) to the Greys, Earls of Kent.²³ In 1513 Sir Henry Grey, kt. (second son of George, Earl of Kent), on whom the property was settled, conveyed the manor and advowson to Sir Henry Wyatt;²⁴ but in a possibly fictitious suit, c. 1540,²⁵ Thomas Grey said that Reynold Grey, Lord

Hastings, had enfeoffed his younger son Robert who held it for 24 years and more and left a son Humphrey aged 12; whereupon Edmund, Earl of Kent, (grand)son of Reynold seized Humphrey and the manor and documents, which had now come to Sir John Allen, alderman of London, although Humphrey had a son, Sir Edward Grey, father of the petitioner. The Wyatts kept the manor. Sir Henry Wyatt had already obtained in 1511 another small estate, called on two occasions a manor, in this Wuhull fee. It was held of Edmund, Earl of Kent, for the service of 6d. yearly by Walter Mauntell, who died seised in 1487 leaving a grandson John, son of his son Henry.²⁶ Like his Buckinghamshire lands,²⁷ these came to Richard Empson, and were granted in 1511 to Sir Henry Wyatt,²⁸ patron of the living in 1523.²⁹ However Sir Walter Mauntell just before his death in 1523 willed a 'manor' here to trustees for his son John, still a minor 19 years later, when the surviving daughters claimed.³⁰ Sir Henry Wyatt's son, the poet Sir Thomas, and Elizabeth his wife, conveyed manor and advowson in 1541–2 to the Sir John Allen³¹ mentioned above. He made a settlement 1544 and died shortly afterwards, leaving a son Christopher.³² Sir Christopher Allen and Audrey his wife conveyed the advowson in 1565 to Bartholomew Tate³³ of Delapré Abbey, and the manor in the following year to Edmund Huddleston,³⁴ who with Dorothy his wife conveyed it to Sir Robert Lane,³⁵ and he in 1579, with his wife Mary and William Lane, granted it to William Bradbourne.³⁶ William Rande and Dorothy his wife conveyed it in 1582 to William Whittle,³⁷ who with William Whittle jun. conveyed it in 1594 to Thomas Rowland.³⁸ Thomas settled it on his wife Jane with reversion to his brother John, a Londoner, who made a conveyance in 1625–6³⁹ but predeceased his brother's widow in 1636, when she was wife of Sir Arthur Smithes. He left a son Thomas.⁴⁰ Thomas and John Rowland granted the manor in 1670 to Sir Richard Raynsford, justice of the pleas.⁴¹ About 1720 Bridges noted that the manor was sunk and the lordship divided amongst several freeholders;⁴² but in 1743–4 John Garth and Rebecca his wife and Elizabeth Brompton, spinster, adjusted their claims to a third of the manor with Richard Hind and John Evans, clerk,⁴³ and in 1761–2 Shuckburgh Ashby and Elizabeth his wife conveyed a third of the manor to John Harris,⁴⁴ while George William Johnson, who derived his title from Edmund Wilson, was also concerned with one third.⁴⁵ The Harris family recovered the manorial rights.⁴⁶ William Harris was concerned with the whole

¹ Roberts, loc. cit.

² *Bk. of Fees*, 940.

³ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* ii, 69. Possibly 'Joan' is a mistake, unless she was a daughter of Luke by a second wife.

⁴ See above.

⁵ Farrer, op. cit. 9.

⁶ Maitland, *Bracton's Note-Book*, 648; *Rot. Hug. de Welles* (Cant. and York Soc.), ii, 168, 250.

⁷ See above.

⁸ *P.C.H. Bucks.* iv, 381.

⁹ *Anct. D. (P.R.O.)*, A. 8270, 8853–4.

¹⁰ Cf. Farrer, op. cit. 99.

¹¹ Feet of F. Northants. case 174, file 51, no. 11.

¹² Eyton, *Shropshire*, vi, 132.

¹³ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* ii, 428.

¹⁴ *Ibid.* iii, 65, 194.

¹⁵ Bridges, op. cit. 393.

¹⁶ *Cal. Fine*, 1272–1307, p. 174; *Cal. Inq. Misc.* i, 1274; *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 11 Edw. I, no. 57.

¹⁷ *Cal. Pat.* 1281–92, p. 111; *Cal. Close*, 1279–88, p. 251.

¹⁸ *Feud. Aids*, iv, 5.

¹⁹ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* iv, 219, p. 141.

²⁰ G.E.C. *Complete Peerage* (2nd ed.), viii, 665 and n.

²¹ *Cal. Pat.* 1307–13, p. 108.

²² *Hist. MSS. Com. Rep.* iv, App. i, 199; *Feud. Aids*, iv, 27.

²³ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* vi, 612, p. 388; ix, 118, p. 116; *Feud. Aids*, iv, 42.

²⁴ *Com. Pleas D. Enr. Trin.* 5 Hen. VIII; *Early Chan. Proc.* file 512, no. 32.

²⁵ *Early Chan. Proc.* file 991, no. 49.

²⁶ *Cal. Inq. Hen. VII*, i, 372. John Mauntell had tenements 1425: *Cat. Anct. D. (P.R.O.)*, A. 7629.

²⁷ *P.C.H. Bucks.* iv, 185, 195.

²⁸ *Cal. Chart.* vi, 275.

²⁹ Bridges, op. cit. 393.

³⁰ *Coll. Topog. et Gen. v*, ch. 24, 308; *Early Chan. Proc.* file 1090, nos. 41–2.

³¹ Feet of F. Northants. East, 33 Hen. VIII.

³² *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), lxxii, 57.

³³ *Cal. of Fines Northants. Trin.* 7 Eliz.

³⁴ *Ibid.* Mich. 7 & 8 Eliz.

³⁵ Feet of F. Northants. Mich. 13 & 14 Eliz.

³⁶ *Ibid.* East. 21 Eliz.

³⁷ *Ibid.* East. 24 Eliz.

³⁸ *Ibid.* East. 36 Eliz.

³⁹ *Ibid.* Hil. 1 Chas. I.

⁴⁰ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), cccclxxxi, 94.

⁴¹ Feet of F. Northants. Hil. 21 & 22 Chas. II.

⁴² Bridges, op. cit. 392.

⁴³ *Recov. R. Mich.* 17 Geo. II, rot. 282; Feet of F. Northants. Trin. 17 Geo. II.

⁴⁴ *Ibid.* Mich. 2 Geo. III.

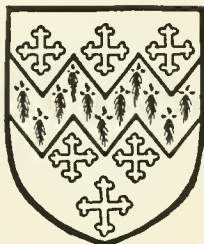
⁴⁵ *Recov. R. Trin.* 2 Geo. III, rot. 265.

⁴⁶ Whellan, *Gazetteer of Northants.* (1874), p. 283.

A HISTORY OF NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

manor in 1799,¹ and William Oliver Harris owned it in 1874,² but the manorial rights appear to have lapsed.

FEE OF HUNTINGDON. The overlordship descended with the manor of Preston³ (q.v.) the last mention found being 1428. Winemar's hide, augmented by $\frac{1}{3}$ of $\frac{1}{2}$ hide, was in the tenure of his successor Michael de Hanslope in the time of Henry I,⁴ while Walter de Preston, (younger) son of Winemar, gave $\frac{2}{3}$ of the tithe of his demesne here to St. Andrew's Priory, Northampton.⁵ Gilbert de Preston died seised in 1274 of $6\frac{1}{2}$ virgates, with 14 customers each holding $\frac{1}{2}$ virgate, of this fee⁶ and a manor here descended with the manor of Preston⁷ (q.v.) until, in or before 1329, Laurence de Preston enfeoffed George de Longueville of Little Billing, who married his daughter Isabel.⁸ Laurence retained a mesne lordship and the service of a rose yearly, as recorded in 1438.⁹ The manor passed by settlement to Margaret wife of Sir Richard Ros for her life, in 1459;¹⁰ but otherwise it descended with the manor of Little Billing (q.v.) until 1621 when Sir Henry Longueville died seised. It had been settled for her life on his widow Katharine, daughter of Sir Edward Cary¹¹ and sister of the first Viscount Falkland. She died in 1635,¹² and in the same year we find this manor in other hands, though her son Edward Longueville retained Little Billing. Samuel Fryers, clerk, patron of the living, and Elizabeth his wife conveyed it to Caleb Stephens and Philemon Stephens with the advowson,¹³ after which it disappears.



LONGUEVILLE. *Gules a fesse dancetty ermine between six crosslets argent.*

The church of **ST. GEORGE** consists **CHURCH** of chancel, 25 ft. by 14 ft.; clerestoried nave, 40 ft. 3 in. by 14 ft. 6 in.; north and south aisles each about 12 ft. wide; south porch, and west tower 9 ft. square, all these measurements being internal. The width across nave and aisles is 42 ft. 6 in. There was formerly a north porch. Both aisles are extended eastward to form chapels, and cover the chancel about half its length.¹⁴

The building was repaired in 1844, and in 1865 was extensively restored under the direction of William Butterfield, when the chancel arch and the arches between the chancel and the chapels were rebuilt, the north porch taken down, and a new south porch, in the style of the 14th century, erected. The chancel, nave, and aisles are of limestone rubble, and the tower and porch of coursed ironstone. The roofs of the nave and aisles are leaded, and that of the chancel is covered with modern red tiles. There are battlemented parapets to the nave, but the tiles and lead of the chancel and aisles overhang. Internally, except in the tower, all the walls are plastered.

The building is in the main of 13th-century date

including the chancel, nave arcades, and aisles, but with one exception all the windows are later insertions. The tower was erected late in the 14th century, and some time in the 15th century the clerestory was added with a sanctus bell-cote over the chancel arch, and new windows were inserted in the chancel and aisles.

The east end of the chancel, which stands free of the aisles or chapels, is without buttress or strings, and in the north wall it retains an original lancet window, splaying wide internally,¹⁵ the hood-mould of which has head-stops. The pointed east window is of three trefoiled lights but the mullions and geometrical tracery are modern;¹⁶ below the sill outside is a length of keel-shape moulding. On the south side is a wide 15th-century window of three cinquefoiled lights, the vertical tracery of which has a transom in the middle light. The 13th-century piscina has a trefoiled head, and wooden shelf, and the 15th-century sedilia are also of plain design with chamfered jambs and cinquefoiled arched heads; the seats are on one level. The chancel arch is of two chamfered orders, the inner springing from half-octagonal responds with moulded capitals and bases. The arch, like those north and south of the chapels, has been entirely rebuilt, but its details, if a copy of the old, point to the original arch having been erected late in the 13th century. The lateral arches are of a single chamfered order, on moulded imposts. The chancel has a modern open roof of three bays and the floor is tiled. The reredos is in the 13th-century style. The former chapels, which are now used respectively as an organ-chamber (north) and vestry¹⁷ (south), belong structurally to the nave aisles.¹⁸

The nave arcades are alike in design and consist of three pointed arches of two orders, with a straight outer and hollow inner chamfer, springing from cylindrical pillars with circular moulded capitals and bases, and at the east end from half-octagonal responds similar to those of the chancel arch: at the west end the arches rest on corbels carved with large four-leaf flowers. The capitals of the pillars differ only slightly from those of the chancel arch responds, and the double-roll bases stand on high square plinths.

The aisles are externally of four bays marked by buttresses and have a keel-shaped string all round at sill level, except at the west end of the south aisle. The windows are all square-headed and of three or, in the western bays, two cinquefoiled lights, and all have moulded jambs and mullions and hood-moulds with head-stops. The 13th-century south doorway has a pointed arch with outer moulded order on nook-shafts with moulded capitals and bases, inner chamfered order, and hood-mould with head-stops. The north doorway is of the same character but is now blocked and the shafts and capitals have been renewed. Above it is a niche with mutilated trefoiled head on nook-shafts with moulded capitals and bases.

flat lintel inside.

¹⁶ If the tracery is a copy of the old work the original window must have been inserted in the 14th century. It has double hollow-chamfered jambs.

¹⁷ The vestry was formed in 1888 as a memorial to Charles Edward Hammond, rector 1882-7.

¹⁸ The absence of dividing arches made it necessary at the time of the restoration to introduce large three-stage buttresses north and south of the chancel arch in order to counteract its thrust.

¹ Feet of F. Northants. Trin. 39 Geo. III; Com. Pleas D. Enr. Trin. 39 Geo. III, rot. 155.

² Whellan, loc. cit.
³ Bk. of Fees, 494, 501, 938; Cal. Inq. p.m. v, 412, p. 235; ibid. vi, 612, p. 390; ibid. ix, 122; Cal. Close, 1374-7, p. 189; Feud. Aids, iv, 7.

⁴ V.C.H. Northants. i, 375.

⁵ Farrer, op. cit. 95; Cal. Chart. 1327-41, p. 119.

⁶ Cal. Inq. p.m. ii, 69; Cal. Close, 1272-9, p. 222.

⁷ References as for overlordship.

⁸ Plac. de Quo Warr. (Rec. Com.), 559; Inq. a.q.d. 3 Edw. III, file 206, no. 7; Wrotesley, Pedigrees from the Plea R. 83.

⁹ Chan. Inq. p.m. 17 Hen. VI, no. 38.

¹⁰ Ibid. 36 Hen. VI, file 169, no. 36.

¹¹ Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), ccclxxvi, 93; Feet of F. Northants. Trin. 17 Jas. I.

¹² Baker, Hist. of Northants. i, 27.

¹³ Feet of F. Northants. East. 10 Chas. I.

¹⁴ Total length of north aisle 53 ft. 2 in., of south aisle 55 ft. 7 in.

¹⁵ The width of the opening is 9 in., splaying internally to 5 ft. 6 in. It has a

There is no piscina in either aisle, but below the east window of the south aisle is a long and narrow wall-recess, or cupboard, widening out inside, fitted with a modern door,¹ and on the south side of the window a carved bracket. There is a similar bracket north of the east window of the north aisle. The aisles retain old timber lean-to roofs of plain character.

The clerestory has three four-centred windows of two cinquefoiled lights on each side, with moulded jambs but no hood-moulds. The nave roof is of low pitch and the parapet is carried along the east gable.²

The tower is of three stages, with moulded plinth and pairs of buttresses at its western angles. The pointed west window is of two trefoiled lights with quatrefoil in the head,³ and the bell-chamber windows

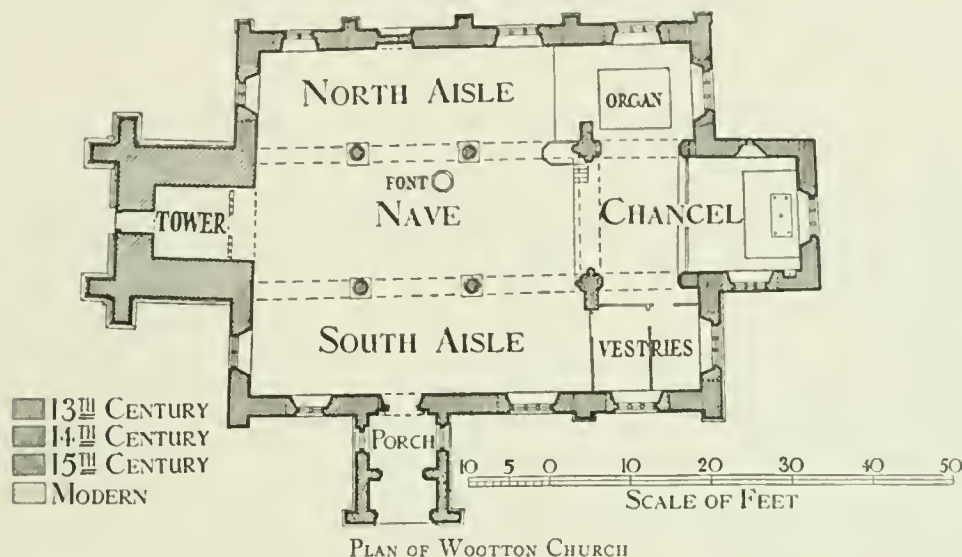
and 1660-5, and his son-in-law Thomas Singleton, also rector, from a monument described by Bridges,⁷ which has disappeared.

There is a scratch dial on each side of the south doorway, and another on the westernmost buttress of the south aisle.

There are five bells in the tower, the earliest of which are the fourth and second dated respectively 1620 and 1629; the third is by Henry Bagley 1660, the treble by Matthew Bagley 1770, and the tenor by Taylor of Oxford 1836.⁸

The plate consists of a cup of 1572 with the maker's mark I C in a plain shield, a paten 1828, a cup of 1885, and a paten of 1888.⁹

The registers before 1812 are as follows: (i) bap-



PLAN OF WOOTTON CHURCH

are of the same character, all with hood-moulds. Below the west window is a narrow doorway with shouldered arch, either wholly restored or modern. There is no vice. The tower terminates in a battlemented parapet with angle pinnacles, and has a pyramidal leaded roof, with vane. The pointed arch to the nave is the full width of the tower, and is of two chamfered orders, the inner springing from corbels carved with large grotesque faces; the opening contains an oak screen erected in 1925. Built into the north wall of the tower inside is part of a 13th-century grave-slab with 'omega' ornament.⁴

The font is of Devonshire marble and dates from 1874;⁵ the pulpit also is modern.

On the splay of the lancet window in the chancel are remains of paintings.⁶

In the chancel is a tablet with long Latin inscription in memory of Jeremiah Stephens, rector 1626-44

tisms and burials 1707-71, marriages 1707-54; (ii) marriages 1755-1812; (iii) baptisms and burials 1770-1812.¹⁰

In the churchyard is a cross in memory of twenty-eight men of the parish who fell in the war of 1914-18.

This descended with the Wahull *ADVOUWSON* fee until 1565 when it was acquired by the Tate family of Delapré Abbey¹¹ in Hardingstone parish (q.v.), and they retained it until 1631,¹² when Zouch Tate sold it to Samuel Fryers, clerk.¹³ The latter sold it three years later to Caleb and Philemon Stephens,¹⁴ members of which family presented until 1680.¹⁵ Frances Stephens married the parson Thomas Singleton¹⁶ and they sold the advowson in 1683 to Thomas Rowney,¹⁷ who gave it to Exeter College Oxford,¹⁸ the present patrons.

A distinguished incumbent was Walter de Bidun, chancellor of the king of Scotland in the 12th century.

¹ The opening is 6 in. wide, 16 in. high, and 10 in. deep, but widens out considerably inside.

² The merlons are of more than average size, those at the eastern angles being panelled.

³ The window is wholly restored.

⁴ It measures 17 in. by 14 in.

⁵ It was given by the Rev. W. W. Woollcombe, rector.

⁶ They were discovered in 1844. That on the west splay is said to have been a representation of the Scourging; the other was too indistinct for identification.

⁷ *Hist. of Northants.* i, 393.

⁸ North, *Ch. Bells of Northants.* 451, where the inscriptions are given. The fourth has a cross used by James Keene of Woodstock. In 1552 there were three great bells and a sanctus bell. The bells were re-dedicated after restoration, on 1 Oct. 1895.

⁹ Markham, *Ch. Plate of Northants.* 323. The second cup and paten were given in 1889 by Mrs. Frost. There is also a plated cup and a glass flagon mounted in silver.

¹⁰ Bridges, writing about 1720, says that the registers 'bear date 1582': op. cit. i, 392.

¹¹ See above and *Cal. Inq. p.m.* vi, 612,

p. 391, *ibid.* ix, no. 118, p. 123; *Cal. Close*, 1374-7, p. 192.

¹² *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), cclxv, 58; *ibid.* cclxv, 149; *Inst. Bks.* (P.R.O.).

¹³ *Recov. R. Mich.* 7 Chas. I, rot. 102. Lord Zouch sued the Crown for the advowson as guardian of Zouch Tate (*Cal. S.P. Dom.* 1623-5, *passim*).

¹⁴ Feet of F. Northants. East. 10 Chas. I.

¹⁵ *Inst. Bks.* (P.R.O.), which also records Henry Bosworth 1681.

¹⁶ Bridges, loc. cit.

¹⁷ Feet of F. Northants. East. 35 Chas. II.

¹⁸ Bridges, loc. cit.

A HISTORY OF NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

He died in 1178 as rector of Wootton and bishop-elect of Dunkeld, Scotland.¹ Later ones are Jeremiah Stephens, literary coadjutor of Sir Henry Spelman; James Fortescue, rector 1764–77, poetical writer; and Thomas Lathbury, ecclesiastical historian (died 1865), for a time curate here. Jeremiah Stephens quarrelled with his parishioners; many of them, aged and poor, trudged to London to petition against his oppression. The Committee of Sequestrations replaced him before 1647 by the popular Puritan divine Daniel Rogers, and in 1656 Lemuel Franklin was intruded. Stephens returned at the Restoration and died here 1665.²

The Wesleyan Reform chapel at Townsend was registered for marriages in 1871.³

The Reverend Christopher Crouch *CHARITIES* by will dated 1 August 1735 devised a piece of meadow ground in Hardingstone, the rent to be paid to 10 poor people of Wootton

and 10 of Holcot. The land is now let and the rent distributed among poor persons by the ministers of the respective parishes.

John Langford by will dated in 1658 charged certain land in Wootton with a yearly sum of £1 10s. to be given to the poor at the discretion of the minister and churchwardens. The rent-charge is received and applied in accordance with the trusts.

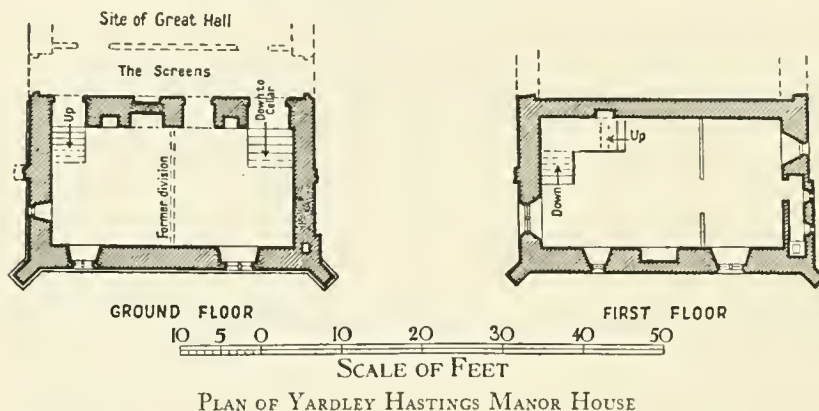
Town Houses (or Poor's Houses) and Town Lands (or Poor's Allotment). By an Award dated 23 June 1779 made under an Inclosure Act, six cottages with appurtenances and land containing 2 a. 3 r. 12 p. were vested in the rector, churchwardens, and overseers in trust for the residence, use, and benefit of the honest and industrious poor of the parish. The endowment now consists of the land and seven cottages. The cottages are let to poor and aged people and the rent of the land is applied in accordance with the trusts.

YARDLEY HASTINGS

Gerdelai (xi cent.); Gerdeleia, Jerdele (xiii cent.); Yerdele Hastings (xiv cent.).

The parish of Yardley Hastings lies on the border of Buckinghamshire on the road from Bedford to

immediately to the north of the church, show that it was a house of some importance. They consist of what were evidently the buttery and pantry, with a large room over them, forming the southern end of the original house. To the immediate north of the present building was the entrance passage or 'screens' and beyond this, northwards, was the Great Hall, which has entirely disappeared. Excavations show, however, that it must have been some 45 ft. long, by 30 ft. wide,⁶ the width of the rooms that are left, the whole building being roofed in one span. The original roof remains over what is left. The jambs of the doors of the entrance passage have survived and show that the main



PLAN OF YARDLEY HASTINGS MANOR HOUSE

Northampton. The soil is clayey on a subsoil of clay and limestone and the chief crops are cereals. The area is 4,187 acres of land and 3 of water. The population in 1931 was 796. The village lies to the north chiefly between 200 ft. and 300 ft. and southwards the land rises to about 370 ft. Yardley Chase, in the southern half of the parish, consists of a deer park and a number of woods noted for their timber including oaks of great size; most of these have been cut down in recent years, but Cowper's Oak,⁴ associated with the poet, and Gog and Magog still stand.

The rectory house was rebuilt in 1701 by the Rev. Humfrey Betty. It is a large stone house with well-designed red brick front, standing at the north end of the village, but was sold in 1935, and a new house erected on another site. A cottage on the south-west side of the churchyard bears a tablet inscribed R. W. 1676, and in the village is a large stone barn dated 1699.⁵

The remains of the old manor-house, which stand

entrance door was on the west front, as this jamb is well moulded, while that of the door at the opposite end is only double-chamfered. In the right-hand wall of the passage, that is the north wall of the remaining building, are four doorways, of which the two in the middle are handsomely treated and opened into the buttery and pantry. Of the other two, one, of plainer character, led to a wooden staircase to the upper chamber; the other at a lower level (and apparently of later date) served some steep stone steps down to a cellar.

So far the arrangement accords with the customary plan. The entrance, or screens, had the kitchen department on the right and the great hall on the left. But there are no remains of the kitchen itself. However, there are indications that a portion of the east wall of the ruin has been rebuilt, and it is quite possible that the kitchen was approached through this wall after passing through the pantry. The upper floor presents an unusual feature, for it consisted of one large room

¹ Anderson, *Early Sources of Scottish Hist.* ii, 259 n.

² *Dict. Nat. Biog.; Hist. MSS. Com. Rep.* iv, App. i, 74, 86; *ibid.* vi, 218b; *Cal. S.P. Dom.* 1633–4, p. 9 (2); *ibid.*

1656–7, pp. 96, 107; *Chan. Proc.* (Ser. 2), bdle. 453, no. 24.

³ *Lond. Gaz.* 11 July 1871.

⁴ See frontispiece to this volume. It was also known as 'Judith', having traditionally

been planted by the Countess Judith: *V.C.H. Northants*, ii, 351.

⁵ It is about 35 yards long, but is without buttresses or architectural features.

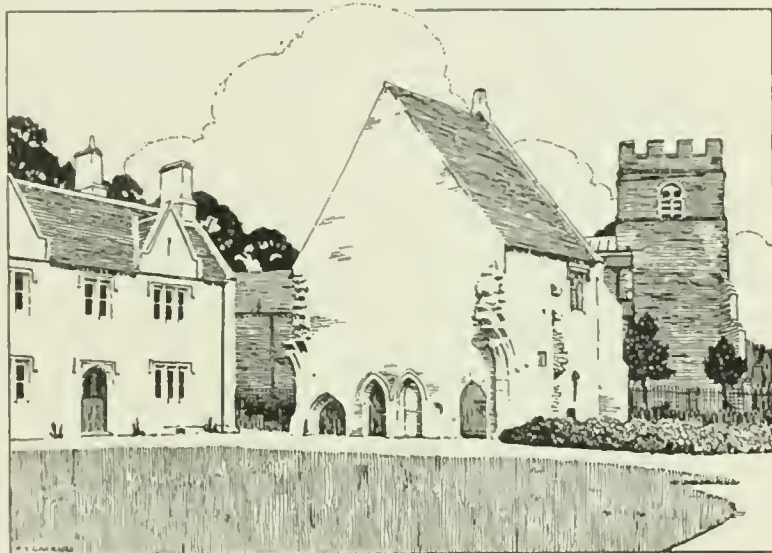
⁶ *Assoc. Arch. Soc. Rep.* xxvii, 406.

(subsequently divided into two), open from floor to roof. The roof is handsome and was clearly intended to be seen. It is partly supported by a stout oak principal shaped into a flat-pointed arch, and the purlins have curved wind-braces. On the outside of the west wall are remains of a buttress where the principal rests on the wall. An attic story has at some time been contrived over the room, but originally it must have been a fine lofty apartment with a wide open fire-place in the middle of its south wall. In the thickness of the east wall is contrived a garderobe, ventilated by two small quatrefoil openings. The shaft is also ventilated by a narrow slit in the angle where the corner buttress joins the south wall. From the character of the room the inference is that it was the solar, or lord's private room, but it was not usual to place the solar over part of the kitchen premises with its approach from the screens. As a rule this chamber was at the farther end of the hall, away from the entrance and forming part of a group of family rooms. But the hall has been entirely destroyed and there are no indications of any rooms at its northern end. The windows of the ground floor are probably of early-14th-century date, as well as one on the upper floor, the other windows being some years later, as also is the chimney shaft. One of the early windows has been altered about 1600. It is not easy to give a clear history of the various building operations to account for the difference in date of the windows and of the doorways leading from the screens. Some year or two ago the ivy was judiciously stripped from the walls, which were put generally into a state of repair.

This manor with its members in Grendon, MANOR Whiston, Denton, Hackleton, Horton, Wolleston, Brafield, Quinton, and Hardingstone was held before the Conquest by Earl Waltheof, to whom William I married his niece Judith. In 1086, as Countess of Huntingdon, she held 3½ hides in YARDLEY.¹ Her daughter Maud married as her second husband David, afterwards King of Scotland,² who in the 12th-century Survey is named lord of 7 hides less 1 small virgate in Yardley and Grendon.³ From him this passed with the honor of Huntingdon successively to his son Henry, stepson Simon de Senlis, and grandsons Malcolm, William, and David.⁴ In 1190 Richard I renewed to Earl David, among other liberties originally granted by Henry I to his grandfather David, King of Scotland, full rights in his hay of Yardley with venison and warren,⁵ which were renewed to his son John, Earl of Chester and Huntingdon, by Henry III in 1233.⁶ Earl David died at Yardley

in 1219 but was not buried there.⁷ In 1234 the barons and knights of Earl John were forbidden to hold a tournament at Yardley.⁸ He is thought to have been poisoned by his wife Helen, daughter of Llewellyn ap Iorwerth, Prince of North Wales, in 1237,⁹ and after his death Yardley was assigned to the pourparty of his sister Ada the wife of Sir Henry de Hastings of Ashill, Norfolk, the ancestress of the Lords Hastings from whom it derived the name of Yardley Hastings.¹⁰

Sir Henry de Hastings died in 1250,¹¹ when the manor of Yardley was granted to Guy de Lusignan the King's brother, during the minority of his son and heir Henry,¹² who had livery of his lands in 1256.¹³ He was wounded and taken prisoner when fighting for Simon de Montfort at Evesham in 1265, and his manor of



YARDLEY HASTINGS: THE MANOR HOUSE

Yardley, worth £90, was committed to John de Warenne, but the King allowed his wife Joan, daughter of Sir William de Cantelou, to retain certain of his lands elsewhere.¹⁴ Being excepted from the 'Dictum de Kenilworth', he was subjected to the fine of seven years' value of his estates, and he submitted to Prince Edward in 1267.¹⁵ He died in 1269 and his son John had livery of his lands when he came of age in 1283.¹⁶ In the following year Sir John de Hastings was found to hold Yardley of the King in chief.¹⁷ He was created Lord Hastings in 1290 and died in 1313 seised of the manor, which passed to John his son by his first wife Isabel, daughter of William, Earl of Pembroke.¹⁸ In 1314 the King granted to Sir John de Hastings and his heirs a weekly market on Wednesday in their manor of Yardley and a yearly fair there on the vigil, feast, and morrow of Holy Trinity.¹⁹ When Sir John died, in 1325, the



HASTINGS. Or a sleeve gules.

¹ V.C.H. Northants. i, 351b.

² Farrer, *Honors and Knights' Fees*, ii, 296.

³ V.C.H. Northants. i, 354b.

⁴ G.E.C. *Complete Peerage* (2nd ed.), vi, 641-6.

⁵ T. Rymer, *Foedera*, i, 48; cf. Add. MS. 33441.

⁶ Cal. Chart. 1300-26, p. 281; Plac. de

Quo Warr. (Rec. Com.), 547b.

⁷ G.E.C. vi, 647.

⁸ Cal. Pat. 1232-47, pp. 63, 133.

⁹ G.E.C. iii, 169.

¹⁰ Ibid.; Farrer, ii, 398.

¹¹ G.E.C. vi, 345.

¹² Cal. Pat. 1247-58, p. 83.

¹³ Close R. 40 Hen. III, m. 11.

¹⁴ Cal. Misc. Inq. i, 256; Cal. Pat. 1258-66, p. 540.

¹⁵ Dict. Nat. Biog.; G.E.C. vi, 346.

¹⁶ Ibid.; Cal. Close, 1279-88, p. 212.

¹⁷ Feud. Aids, iv, 6.

¹⁸ Cal. Inq. p.m. v, 412, p. 231; G.E.C. vi, 346.

¹⁹ Cal. Chart. 1300-26, p. 239.

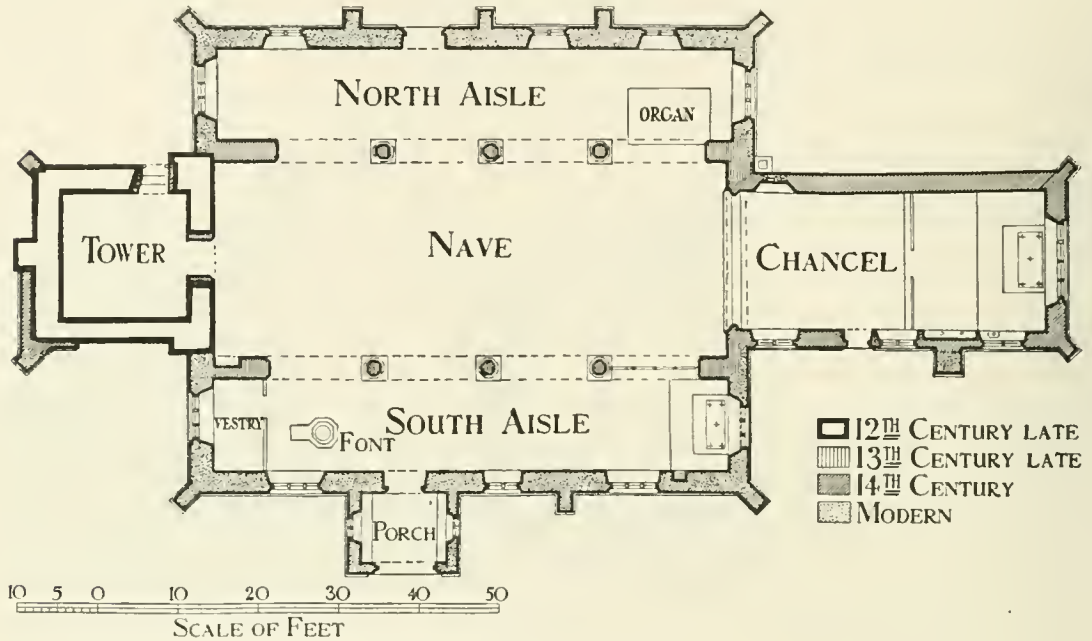
A HISTORY OF NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

manor included two dovecotes, a wind-mill, a horse-mill, a park, and a free chase, with two yearly views of frankpledge and a three-weekly court, and was held of the King in chief by service of a sore sparrow-hawk or 2s. yearly.¹ During the minority of Laurence, son and heir of John de Hastings by his wife Juliana daughter of Sir Thomas de Leybourne, custody of the manor was granted to various persons.² Though still a minor, Laurence de Hastings had livery of his lands in 1339 when he was created Earl of Pembroke.³ On his death in 1348, leaving his son John by Agnes, daughter of Roger Mortimer, a minor under two years,⁴ custody of the manor was granted to William de Groucy.⁵ This

Earl of Kent, conveyed his lands to feoffees to the use of himself and his wife Elizabeth, with remainder to her brother Lord Hussey.¹³ After divers transactions the manor and remainder were sold to Sir William Compton in 1512-13.¹⁴ He died seised of it together with the park and chase in 1528,¹⁵ from which date it has followed the same descent as that of Castle Ashby (q.v.).

In the 18th century a fair was held here on Tuesday in Whitsun week in a close adjoining the old manor-house.¹⁶

The *FREE CHASE* of Yardley was usually made the subject of a separate grant during the nonage of an heir. Henry III's brother Richard, King of Almain,



PLAN OF YARDLEY HASTINGS CHURCH

John de Hastings enfeoffed Walter Amyas and others to certain uses and died in 1375⁶ leaving his son John aged two, to whom in 1387 the feoffees quitclaimed the property.⁷ He was accidentally killed at the age of 17 in a tournament at Woodstock in 1389, when the Earldom of Pembroke became extinct.⁸ The estate passed to Reynold, Lord Grey of Ruthin, the grandson of Elizabeth daughter of John, first Lord Hastings.⁹ He was holding one knight's fee in Yardley in 1428¹⁰ and in 1440 was succeeded by his grandson Edmund, the son of Sir John Grey,¹¹ who was created Earl of Kent in 1465 and died in 1490. His second son George, Earl of Kent, died in 1503 having entailed his property,¹² but it was dispersed, probably through the gambling propensities of Richard, his son by his first wife Anne, widow of Sir William Bouchier. Richard,

held it in 1271.¹⁷ In 1345 the king confirmed a grant which Laurence de Hastings had made to his yeoman Robert Wyard, of the bailiwick of the manor and custody of the chase, with wages at 3d. a day, a robe and fees.¹⁸ A wood here called 'Roundehai' in 1325¹⁹ is mentioned again in 1530 when it was granted with the bailiwick of the manor to Baldwin Willoughby, Sewer of the Chamber.²⁰

The church of *ST. ANDREW* consists of chancel, 37 ft. 4 in. by 17 ft. 6 in., clerestoried nave of four bays, 63 ft. 4 in. by 24 ft.; north and south aisles, about 11 ft. 6 in. wide; south porch, and west tower, 16 ft. by 15 ft. 6 in., all these measurements being internal. The width across nave and aisles is 52 ft. 6 in.

The south aisle and porch were rebuilt in 1883, the

¹ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* vi, 612; *Chan. Inq.* p.m. 18 Edw. II, file 91, no. 26.

² *Cal. Fine*, iii, 327, 331; *ibid.* 334; *ibid.* iv, 238; *Cal. Pat.* 1330-4, p. 240.

³ *Cal. Fine*, v, 117; *G.E.C.* vi, 351.

⁴ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* ix, 118.

⁵ *Cal. Pat.* 1348-50, pp. 450, 499; *ibid.* 1350-4, p. 537.

⁶ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 49 Edw. III, no. 70; *Bridges*, i, 396.

⁷ *Cal. Close*, 1385-9, p. 448.

⁸ *G.E.C.* vi, 210.

⁹ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 2 Hen. IV, no. 54;

G.E.C. vi, 351.

¹⁰ *Feud. Aids*, iv, 42.

¹¹ *G.E.C.* vi, 158.

¹² *G.E.C.* vii, 164-8.

¹³ *Bridges*, i, 396; *Feet of F. Northants.*

Mich. 6 Hen. VIII.

¹⁴ *Common Pleas R.* 1019, D. Enr. mm. 2, 4, 4 d; *Feet of F. Northants.* East. 12 Hen. VIII. Some time between 1518 and 1528 Sir Henry Grey, 2nd son of George, Earl of Kent, attempted to obtain deeds relating to Yardley Hastings from Sir William Compton: *Early Chan.*

Proc. bdle. 512, no. 51.

¹⁵ *Exch. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), dxciii, 1. For Sir William Compton see under Castle Ashby.

¹⁶ *Bridges*, i, 394.

¹⁷ *Cal. Pat.* 1266-72, p. 591. Woods in the chase were held by Arnold de Bois in 1277 and William de Kirkby in 1302: *Cal. Inq. p.m.* ii, 222, p. 135; *ibid.* iv, 91, p. 57.

¹⁸ *Cal. Pat.* 1348-50, p. 205; cf. pp. 189, 450.

¹⁹ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* vi, 612.

²⁰ *L. and P. Hen. VIII*, iv (2), g. 6187 (12).



YARDLEY HASTINGS



YARDLEY HASTINGS CHURCH, FROM THE SOUTH-EAST

north aisle in 1887-8, and other modern work includes the restoration of the chancel (1884-5) and clerestory, and the erection of new roofs. The walls throughout are of limestone rubble, but in the parts rebuilt ironstone is used for windows and dressings. The chancel has a slated eaved roof, but the other roofs are leaded and of low pitch, that of the nave behind straight parapets. The aisle parapets are battlemented. With the exception of the tower all the walls are plastered internally.

The tower is of late-12th-century date, but everything east of it has been rebuilt, the nave arcades dating from c. 1280-1300, and the chancel from c. 1340. The rebuilding appears to have been begun by the erection of an aisled nave, the width of which was determined by the great size of the tower, followed at an interval by the erection of a new chancel and the widening of the aisles, the architectural features of which before their modern rebuilding were in the main similar to those of the chancel.¹ The clerestory appears to have been a 15th-century addition.

The chancel has diagonal angle buttresses of two stages, chamfered plinth, and a string at sill level along the east wall. The 14th-century pointed east window is of four trefoiled lights with reticulated tracery, and the gable has a plain coping and modern apex cross. The north wall is blank. In the south wall are three square-headed windows of two trefoiled lights, with hood-moulds and double sunk-chamfered jambs, the westernmost of which is lengthened so as to form a low-side window.² Opposite to this, in the north wall, are the remains of a second low-side window, entirely blocked outside, but with its western light only dropped, as at Grendon, the sill being stepped inside.³ The piscina is wholly restored, and the triple sedilia very extensively. The former has a cusped ogee arch in a square head, and the latter are at one level, under cinquefoiled ogee arches on shafts and jambs with moulded capitals and bases.⁴ There is a plain pointed priest's doorway between the two westernmost windows. The wide pointed chancel arch is of two chamfered orders, the inner springing from half-octagonal responds with moulded capitals and bases.⁵

The late-13th-century nave arcades consist of four pointed arches of two chamfered orders springing from octagonal pillars with moulded capitals and bases, and from moulded corbels at each end. The arches have hood-moulds on the nave side, but there are differences both in dimension and detail⁶ which point to the

south arcade having been built first. Several ancient features have been retained in the modern aisles. In the usual position at the east end of the south aisle (which was restored to use as a chapel⁷ in 1905) is a trefoil-headed piscina with fluted bowl, and on each side of the east window a carved bracket. There is no piscina in the corresponding part of the north aisle (now used as an organ-chamber and vestry), but in the north wall is a rectangular aumbry⁸ fitted with a modern door.

The clerestory was wholly restored when the new roof was put on the nave in 1889. It has five modern square-headed two-light windows on the south side, and four on the north, all of the same character as the other windows in the church, but placed without reference to the arches below.

The massive late-12th-century tower is of three stages, marked by strings, and terminates with a later battlemented parapet. Diagonal buttresses at the western angles are also later additions,⁹ but there are original buttresses at the east, facing north and south, and in the middle of the west wall. The lower stage is blank on all three sides, except for a doorway¹⁰ knocked through the north wall, and the middle stage is also blank on the north, but on the south and west sides is pierced by tall loops.¹¹ The bell-chamber windows consist of two rounded lights with solid spandrel, under a semicircular containing arch on jamb-shafts with moulded capitals and bases. On the south side there is also a small round-headed opening¹² east of the main window, and on the east face of the tower is the line of the original high-pitched nave roof. Immediately over the bell-chamber windows, on all four sides, is the corbel table, mostly of carved heads, which carried the original parapet. The tower is walled off from the church, but a plain 13th-century doorway, which retains traces of colour decoration, gives access from the nave. There is no vice.

At the south-west corner of the nave a square-headed recess marks the position of a doorway to a former west gallery. The west end of the south aisle is screened off with good 18th-century panelling. The south doorway retains an original oak door, relined. The door, which may be of 15th-century date, contains a wicket, and has a trefoiled head, embattled top rail, plain iron hinges, and good ring handles.

The font has a plain octagonal bowl, and good 17th-century flat panelled cover with knob. The oak pulpit is modern. There is no ancient glass.¹³ The

¹ Both aisles were rebuilt as far as possible in their original form. Among Sir Henry Dryden's papers at the Northampton Public Library is a draft of the Report prepared by him and the Rev. R. Baker in June 1883 on the rebuilding of the south aisle. The east end was much dislocated by the thrust of the chancel arch and the angle buttress was cracked. The west end was 'pushed outward at little above the ground as is supposed by the pressure of the tower'. The window immediately east of the doorway was 'one of the very few in the church which may be taken as in its original state'. The nave roof was framed with tie-beams, king-post, and struts and covered with slates. 'Tracery' had apparently been inserted in the spaces over the tie beams, but this had disappeared and a ceiling had been formed beneath. The roof was 'extremely decayed and in a dangerous state'. The effect of the decay had been to push out the clerestory walls

and arcades. In the south aisle the inclination of the principals and rafters had pushed out the walls and rendered them insecure. See also *Assoc. Arch. Soc. Rep.* xvii (1883), p. xxix.

² *Assoc. Arch. Soc. Rep.* xxix, 458. The two lights below the transom are now blocked, and the whole of the lower part of the window inside is covered by a sloping plastered 'sill'.

³ *Ibid.* 459. The western light is 2 ft. 3 in. longer than the other. The window now shows merely as a slightly arched recess.

⁴ Only one of the capitals and the jamb and base on the west side are original.

⁵ The arch is much restored, the capitals and bases being new.

⁶ The pillars of the south arcade are of 24 in. diameter, and those of the north arcade 22 in. On the south side the hood-moulds have small head-stops, but on the north there is only a single head-stop, and

that of later type. The mouldings, too, differ.

⁷ Known as the Compton Chapel. It is inclosed on the north side by a modern oak screen, and has a reredos in memory of the Rev. A. C. Ranger, rector 1894-1912.

⁸ The aumbry appears to have been originally in the south aisle; see Sir Henry Dryden's Report (1883).

⁹ Probably in the 14th century. On the south-west buttress is a panel with the names of the churchwardens and the date 1787, no doubt recording repair in that year.

¹⁰ It has a wooden frame.

¹¹ That on the west is perfectly plain, with square jambs and head; the other is pointed with moulded jambs and head, and a hood-mould.

¹² It has a wide chamfer all round.

¹³ Sir Henry Dryden's Report of 1883 mentions 'scraps of coloured glass' in the south aisle windows, which it was recommended should be 'either replaced in their

A HISTORY OF NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

royal arms of the later Hanoverian sovereigns are in the nave, and there is also a brass chandelier of eighteen branches given in 1808 by George Rooke, rector.¹

There are wall memorials in the chancel to John Wilson, rector (d. 1695); Humfrey Betty, rector (d. 1737); William Underwood, 'many years Postmaster of Oxford, Witney, and Burford' (d. 1760);² Edward Lye, rector (d. 1767); James Gardiner, rector (d. 1799); George Rooke, rector (d. 1856); and others. In the north aisle is a memorial to thirty-one men of the parish who fell in the war of 1914-18. A lych-gate was erected in 1902.

There is a ring of six bells, cast in 1723 by Henry Penn of Peterborough.³

The plate consists of a plated cup and silver paten given by the Rev. G. H. Rigby, rector, in 1892, and two plated patens and a flagon, all inscribed 'Yardley Hastings'.⁴

The registers before 1812 are as follows: (i) all entries 1550-1653; (ii) 1653-1700; (iii) baptisms and burials 1701-1812; (iv) marriages 1754-87; (v) marriages 1787-1812.

The earliest known patron was the *ADVOWSON* prior of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem in England who presented to the living in 1232,⁵ but the right was recovered by William de Valence and Guy de Lusignan who had custody of the manor during the minority of an heir, and they presented William de Sexthorp in 1251.⁶ From this date the advowson descended with the manor. When assigned to Agnes, Countess of Pem-

broke, in 1349 it was extended at 40 marks yearly.⁷ Richard, Earl of Kent, appears to have assigned it to Edmund Howard who presented Master Robert Carter in 1519,⁸ but it was acquired by Sir William Compton before 1528.⁹ A grant of the tithes of the demesne of Yardley to the prior of St. Andrew's, Northampton, by Simon de St. Liz was the cause of later friction between the prior and the rector.¹⁰ In 1223 it was agreed that the latter should pay 9 qrs. of wheat and one bezant worth 2s. in lieu of tithes¹¹ and this was ultimately converted into a pension, stated in 1535 to be 26s. 8d.¹² At this date the rectory, valued at 20 marks in the 13th century,¹³ was rated at £15 13s. 2½d. and included Denton.¹⁴

John Towers, afterwards Bishop of Peterborough, was instituted rector here in 1623 and had dispensation in 1628 to hold with Yardley the vicarage of Halifax.¹⁵ Edward Lye, Anglo-Saxon and Gothic scholar and Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries, was presented to the church by the Earl of Northampton in 1750 and was buried here in 1767.¹⁶

Andrew's Dole. An annuity of 4s. *CHARITY* was given or settled in 1619 by William

Andrew for the benefit of six poor widows, but the payment of the annuity has long been withheld and must be regarded as lost.

According to the ancient 'customs' recorded in 1607 the rector had to give a Christmas dinner to the town, and also to provide straw in the church at Easter and Christmas 'that parishioners might be warm in church with comfort to hear God's word.'¹⁷

present positions or placed with those in other parts of the church in some one window'. This was not done.

¹ He became rector in 1805 and died in 1856. His father, of the same name, died in 1807 (M.I. in chancel).

² 'Who by care and industry acquired an handsome Fortune, which he by Will divided amongst his poor relations.'

³ North, *Ch. Bells of Northants.* 452, where the inscriptions are given.

⁴ Markham, *Ch. Plate of Northants.* 325. An older chased silver chalice and paten disappeared about the time that the present vessels were given: *ex inf.* the Rev. W. F. Need.

⁵ *Rot. Hug. de Welles* (Cant. and York Soc.), ii, 167, 248.

⁶ *Rot. Rob. Grosseteste* (Cant. and York Soc.), 248.

⁷ *Cal. Close*, 1346-9, p. 583.

⁸ Bridges, i, 398.

⁹ *Exch. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), dxcxiii, 1.

¹⁰ *Dugdale, Mon.* v, 190; cf. *Cal. Chart.* iv, 119.

¹¹ Bridges, i, 398.

¹² *Valor Eccl.* iv, 329.

¹³ Bridges, i, 398.

¹⁴ *Valor Eccl.* iv, 329.

¹⁵ *Dict. Nat. Biog.*; *Cal. S.P. Dom.* 1628-9, p. 190.

¹⁶ *Dict. Nat. Biog.*

¹⁷ Marquess of Northampton, *Hist. of the Comptons*, app. viii.



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